



## KNIVES

Before completing this charm, girls should have completed the be Wild Wonders patch as well as earned the Leave No Trace and First-Aid charms.

**If using this program for troop meetings, be sure each girl has permission to participate in the activity before starting this knives program.**

Pocket Knives are a useful tool when camping and being in the outdoors. Learning knife safety and usage is an important skill to help instill confidence and help take ownership in tasks that require the use of knives. This program most importantly teaches proper safety and usage techniques.

### POCKET KNIFE SAFETY AND ETIQUETTE

Here are some general safety guidelines to follow whenever using a pocket knife.

- » A knife is a tool, not a toy.
- » Treat a knife with respect. Remember that the right to use a knife is an honor and privilege.
- » Always use a sharp knife, never a dull knife.
- » Keep the knife clean and dry.
- » Never pass or carry an open pocket knife.
- » When you are not using your pocket knife, close it and store it in a safe place.

### POCKET KNIFE PLEDGE

- I promise to keep the safety of myself and others around me as my top priority.
- I will treat my pocket knife, or any other knife I use, with respect.
- I will always close my pocket knife when not in use.
- I will use my pocketknife only during designated and appropriate times, and under the supervision of an adult.
- I will use my pocketknife in a safe manner at all times.

### BROWNIE (GRADES 2-3)

- » Know the safety rules for handling a pocketknife
  - An “Arc of Safety” is keeping arm’s length away from anyone or anything.
  - Measure this arc around each girl before having a knife in hand! Keep safety in mind when using a cutting tool of any kind.
  - Give every girl a chance to see this demonstrated and then to try it for herself.
- » Stress the importance of safety in using paring knives in cooking and food preparation.
  - Cut away from your body and always use a cutting board.
  - Cutting softer foods (mushrooms, fruit) can be great practice with knives.



- » Brownies may not be strong enough to open a pocketknife themselves, but they should learn how to handle it correctly.
  - Use plastic or wooden knives for practicing, as girls work their way towards handling real knives.
- » Know knife etiquette.
  - Knives should not be used to deface or disfigure any property, plant, or animals.
  - Knives are not toys and should not be shown, waved, or thrown in jest or in a threatening manner.

## JUNIOR (GRADES 4-5)

- » Know the safety rules for handling a pocketknife.
  - Remember an "Arc of Safety" is keeping an arms-length away from anyone or anything while using a knife.
- » Review knife etiquette.
- » Practice how to safely open, close, and pass a pocketknife.
  - Always use both hands to open a folding knife.
  - When closing, keep fingers to the side and refrain from wrapping fingers around the handle into which the blade will be inserted.
  - Close a knife before passing it to someone.
  - The receiver should acknowledge that she or he has received it and has a grip on it by saying "Thank you".
  - The person handing the knife over should confirm the transfer by letting go and saying "You're welcome."
- » Know knife safety.
  - Always open and close a knife slowly and intentionally.
  - Hold the knife by its handle. Keep fingers on the sides of the knife. Do not place thumb or finger on the blade.
  - Before walking or running, put knife down or close it and put it away.
  - Do not throw knife.
  - Keep knife closed when not in use or when being carried.
- » Know how to care for knives.
  - Keep knives dry and off the ground.
  - Keep knives away from dirt and sand.
  - Keep knives away from open flames and extreme heat.
  - Do not use knife to pry things open, to hammer, or to "chop" wood.
  - Use knife appropriately to cut, scrape, or whittle wood, food, or rope and not on rocks or metal.
  - Carefully clean your knife when you're done using it.
- » When scraping, or whittling, use "pushing" strokes away from your body rather than toward.
  - Whittle or carve something such as a plaster sculpture, soap sculpture, or fuzz sticks. Other carving mediums might be paraffin or balsa wood.
- » Sharp knives are safer to use because they cut more easily than dull ones. It takes less effort and pressure to cut with a sharp knife, so if you do slip, the chances of cutting yourself are less. Also, a sharp knife will leave a clean cut on your skin, but a dull knife will leave a jagged one (clean cuts heal better.)

## CADETTE, SENIORS AND AMBASSADORS (GRADES 6-12 + ADULTS)

- » Know the safety rules for handling a pocketknife.
- » Know knife etiquette.
- » Know how to care for knives.
- » Review the responsibilities that go along with the privilege of having a knife.
- » A whetstone or another sharpening device is used to sharpen a knife. Practice this skill by letting every girl use a sharpening stone. Keep knives clean to protect the blade and cutting edge.
  - Pocketknives should be oiled periodically (and wiped off) to keep the hinge working easily. Do not use lock blade knives.

- Show that you know how to take care of and use a pocketknife.
- With a pocketknife, make a useful item.
- » Learn how to safely use and care for a hatchet. Review how is this different than using a pocketknife.
  - Review " Arc of Safety", stress allowing more space for use of hatchet, make sure areas is clear and safe.
  - Place sheath over hatchet blade whenever it is not in use.
  - Carry hatchet at side with one hand closed entirely around the handle near the head of the hatchet, the blade turned out from body. Always have complete control when carrying. If you stumble, toss the hatchet away from you and others. Never carry a hatchet over shoulder.
  - When not in immediate use, sheathe hatchet and store it in secured location, off the ground, and away from dampness/moisture.
  - Practice passing a hatchet safely.
    - To pass hatchet, the safest method is to set the hatchet down on a flat surface and step back, saying "thank you" to the receiver. Receiver then steps towards the hatchet, picks it up, and says "you're welcome".
    - Other method to pass a hatchet is to hold the head flat, blade tilted away to the side, handle toward the receiver. The receiver should slide their hand up the handle to within a couple inches of the head until they have a balance of the weight. Don't let go until the receiver has full control of the tool. Receiver says "Thank you." Then Passer lets go.
- » Practice preparing/splitting some tinder and kindling with a hatchet.
  - Wear glasses, full-coverage sunglasses, or other eye protection.
  - Wear work gloves to help prevent splinters, blisters, and bruised palms.
  - Wear sturdy boots.
  - Always stand up to use hatchet.
  - Make sure to have plenty of room and use "safety circle" when handling hatchet, safety circle must be larger to reflect using a larger tool.
  - Hold smaller pieces of wood with a "chicken stick" rather than with your hand.
  - The "chicken stick" will protect your fingers.
  - With the hatchet, tap the small piece of wood until it sticks.
  - Once the hatchet is stuck in the wood, tap the wood on the chopping block or ground as the hatchet works its way through wood.
  - Repeat until you have several small pieces of wood to use as kindling.
- » Practice and clean the hatchet.
  - Put a drop of oil on the blade and rub with a cloth.
  - Rub with steel wool to remove rust, then wipe with cloth.
- » Practice and sharpen hatchet.
  - Use a file to get knicks and burs off the blade, starting with the coarse side.
  - Use whetstone to hone and sharpen the blade, finishing off with fine side.
  - Hold the hatchet by the head with the blade upward.
  - Move the file or stone in rotation on the blade, not the hatchet.
  - Do both sides of blade.

## RESOURCES

The following resources will help in the completion of this charm.

- » Brownies – [youtube.com/watch?v=cKPlmLZOf3Y](https://youtube.com/watch?v=cKPlmLZOf3Y)
- » Brownies – [youtube.com/watch?v=Y17RweezGi8](https://youtube.com/watch?v=Y17RweezGi8)
- » Juniors + – [vimeo.com/36998822](https://vimeo.com/36998822)

## BADGE CONNECTIONS

By participating and completing this Charms program, you are also on your way to earning Girl Scout badges.

Purchase specific badge requirement packets at [girlscoutshop.com/ARIZONA-CACTUS-PINE-COUNCIL](https://girlscoutshop.com/ARIZONA-CACTUS-PINE-COUNCIL).

- » Daisy = Buddy Camper
- » Brownie = Brownie Cabin Camper
- » Juniors = Camper, Eco Camper
- » Cadettes = Primitive Camper
- » Seniors = Adventure Camper
- » Ambassadors = Survival Camper
- » Adults trainings available = TCC1 and TCC2

### RECOMMENDED NEXT CHARMS:

- Navigation
- Tent Camping
- Outdoor Cooking
- Lashing

WILD WONDERS