



Knives

Before completing this charm, girls should have completed the be wild be free patch as well as leave no trace and first aid charms

Note: Before using knives, be sure each girl has permission to participate in the activity.

Brownie:

- 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 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, but give them some time with real knives.

Junior:

- 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.
- Practice how to safely open, close and pass a pocketknife. Don’t forget to say "Thank you" when receiving a knife from another person to indicate you are holding it and the other person can let go and says “You’re welcome.”
- 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.)

- Whittle or carve something such as a plaster sculpture, soap sculpture, or fuzz sticks. Other carving mediums might be paraffin or balsa wood.

Cadette/ Senior/ Ambassador:

- Know the safety rules for handling a pocketknife
- Whittle or carve something such as a plaster sculpture, soap sculpture, or fuzz sticks. Other carving mediums might be paraffin or balsa wood.
- Review the responsibilities that go along with the privilege of having a knife.
- A whetstone or other 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. How is this different than using a pocketknife? Practice preparing some tinder and kindling.
- Split kindling