

This guide has been developed to provide consistent and complete instruction and practice for the handling and caring for wood tools: pocketknife, saw, and ax. Instructors should follow this guide, referencing the Boy Scout Handbook, as necessary. Recognizing that wood tools proficiency can only be acquired after significant experience, the instructor should keep in mind that the goal of the Totin' Chip is merely to introduce the concepts of wood tool usage and safety to relatively new scouts. To that end, your job as an instructor is to present the material clearly, answer all questions, assist scouts who may be struggling, and encourage all the scouts in a supportive manner.

This Totin' Chip course works best with a group of 5-10 scouts and should take approximately 45-60 minutes to complete. It is designed to cover the material found in the Boy Scout Handbook pp. 77-85.

# TOTIN'/CHIP COURSE - POCKET KNIFE INSTRUCTION

BSA TROOP 58

Scout Materials:	Instruction Materials:	
Boy Scout Handbook pp. 77-79	Boy Scout Handbook pp. 77-79	Whetstones
Pocketknife	Pocketknife	Honing Oil
Stick off of ground - Approx. 12" long and 1" in diameter.	Toothpicks	
	Tissue Paper	

Discussion Points	Scout Practice
Describe some uses for a pocketknife: cut a rope, slice a biscuit, tighten a screw, make wood shavings to start a fire. (pg. 77)	Have the scouts describe some other uses for a pocketknife.
Discuss and demonstrate the proper way to open and close a pocketknife. (pg. 78)	Have the scouts practice opening and closing their pocketknife properly five times.
Discuss and demonstrate the passing technique. Blade is closed and do not open until receiver says "thank you."	Have the scouts pass a pocketknife around a circle a few times - opening, closing, passing, and saying, "thank you."
Discuss and demonstrate the cleaning of a pocketknife (pg. 79). Wash blades in hot soapy water and dry. To clean inside, wrap a moistened cloth around the end of a toothpick, open all blades and wipe out the blade compartment.	Have the scouts clean the inside of their pocketknives with toothpicks and cloth.
Discuss and demonstrate how to sharpen a pocketknife (pg. 79). Show and discuss a whetstone - made of stone that is harder than knife metal. Some people sharpen with a dry whetstone, others put water or light oil on stone. Show how to sharpen blade - hold blade at 30 degree angle (1/3 to vertical) and push blade away as if slicing a layer off of the stone or move blade in a circular motion. Sharpen both sides of the blade. Wipe blade with clean cloth and examine in light. A sharp blade has no shine, a dull blade reflects light and looks shiny.	Have the scouts practice sharpening their pocketknives using a whetstone and the proper technique. Have them do twenty strokes per side of the blade. Then have them examine for sharpness.
Discuss and demonstrate the proper cutting technique. Holding blade at an angle and cutting away. Before opening you knife, for use, check your safety circle - no one should be within at least four feet of user.	Have the scouts find a stick (approx. 1" in dia..) on the ground. Have them whittle it for two minutes. Or have them make fuzz sticks (pg. 251) using the proper technique.
Wrap-up	Have scouts take turns reading out loud the do's and don'ts of knife safety (pg. 78)

# TOTIN'/CHIP COURSE - SAW INSTRUCTION

BSA TROOP 58

<p><b>Scout Materials:</b></p> <p>Boy Scout Handbook Pg. 80</p>	<p><b>Instruction Materials:</b></p> <p>Boy Scout Handbook pg. 80                  Bow saw w/rubber sheathing                  Fixed blade saw                  Goggles</p>	<p>Gloves                  Logs off of ground - approx.                  4' long x 4-5" dia"                  Large log for bracing</p>
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Discussion Points	Scout Practice
Discuss a saw is usually the most effective way to cut wood. Show different types of saws: bow saw - note replaceable blade, fixed blade saw. Need to keep blades sharp for efficient cutting	
Discuss and demonstrate sheathing of saw when not in use. Keep saws off ground and out of way when not use.	
Discuss when not to cut trees i.e without permission of ranger, landowner, or scout leader. When cutting a limb off a tree - make an undercut first, then saw from top down to prevent stripping bark from the tree.	
Demonstrate proper carrying technique of a saw - carry at side with the blade turned away from body.	
Discuss and demonstrate proper sawing technique - brace wood against a larger log or chopping block. Use long, smooth strokes. Do not press down on the saw, let the weight of the saw pull the blade into the wood.	Have the scouts practice carrying the saw correctly and sawing through a log 4-5" dia. Each scout should try to saw completely through the log at least one time. Scouts should wear goggles and gloves.
Wrap-up	

**Scout Materials:**

Boy Scout Handbook pp. 81-85

**Instruction Materials:**

Boy Scout Handbook pp. 81-85

Large Axe

Small Hatchet

Axe Yard

Mill Bastard File

Goggles

Gloves

Large log for splitting - approx. 8-12" dia..

Chopping Block

Discussion Points	Scout Practice
Discuss and acquaint scouts with an axe yard. Only one scout may be in the yard at a time. A scout may be in the yard provided there is adult leader supervision. Keep yard clean - tools off the ground and clean up debris. An axe may not be used outside the yard unless instructed and supervised by an adult leader. Never swing an axe if someone is within 10" of you. (p.82).	
Discuss uses of an axe - falling trees, splitting large logs, etc. (pg. 81).	Have the scouts describe some other uses of an axe.
Review the different parts of an axe: Handle - shoulder and heel; Head - butt, face, toe, blade, and bit (pg. 81.)	Point to an area of the axe and have the scouts call out its name.
Discuss safety - do not use an axe if handle is split, head is loose, or blade is dull. Report an unsafe axe to the adult leaders. When not in use, sheath the blade and store out of the way.	
Discuss and demonstrate safe carrying techniques. Carry the axe with one hand at your side. Carry by the head with the blade facing away from the body. Do not carry on your shoulders (pg. 84.)	Have the scouts practice carrying an axe.
Discuss and demonstrate safe passing techniques. Pass with the axe head down and the bit turned away from both of you. Do not release until the receiver says "thank you." (pg. 84)	Have the Scouts practice passing an axe to each other.
Discuss and demonstrate how to sharpen an axe, using a mill bastard file, thick gloves, and goggles.	Have scouts practice sharpening an axe or hatchet.
Discuss and demonstrate chopping techniques, especially bucking (cutting through) a horizontal log using a V-notch and splitting an upright log on a chopping block. Discuss hand and feet positioning and	Have scouts practice receiving, carrying, chopping, and passing an axe. Have each scout try to chop approx. ten times, concentrating on proper technique.
Wrap-up	

**Outdoor Code:**

Explain that the Outdoor Code is similar to the Scout Promise and Law, it is a statement of our beliefs in protecting our environment and being good stewards of our natural resources.

Say each line and pause for the scouts to recite.

*As an American I will do my best to:  
Be clean in my Outdoor Manners,  
Be careful with fire,  
Be considerate in the Outdoors,  
And be Conservation-Minded.*

**Recognition:**

This completes the Totin' Chip Course.

Award scouts the Totin' Chip card. Signoff on Second Class Requirement 2c.

Scouts should sign the back of the card and keep with them at all times.

Explain that you must have the card with you to possess or use wood tools (knife, saw, and axe) at future scout meetings or events. A scout/adult leader can ask to see your Totin' Chip, if you are carrying or using wood tools. If you do not have it with you then you can not be allowed to use the tools. Likewise, if you are carrying a pocketknife and do not have your Totin' Chip with you, the knife may be confiscated until the end of the

With the right to use these tools comes a responsibility to use them safely. Your right to use these tools at scout events may be taken away if you do not follow the safety rules we discussed today.

Each time you are caught handling the tools in an unsafe manner, a corner will be removed from your card. Once all four corners have been removed you will forfeit your privileges to use wood tools for one year. In the case of severe safety issues (i.e. using a tool as a weapon or in a manner that can cause bodily injury to others) your privileges may be forfeited immediately and indefinitely, other forms of discipline may also apply. A corner had been removed at the beginning as a reminder to always think safely and to remind of the consequences of not following the

Congratulations on earning the Totin' Chip.