



# Whittling Chip in a Day Program

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## Requirements

1. Know the safety rules for handling a knife.
2. Show that you know how to take care of and use a pocketknife.
3. Make a carving with a pocketknife.\* Work with your den leader or other adult when doing this.
4. Read, understand and promise to abide by the "Knives Are Not Toys" guidelines.
5. Read, understand and promise to abide by the "Pocketknife Pledge."

*\*One of the items carved for requirements of the "Bear Claws" adventure may be used to fulfill Whittling Chip requirement 3.*

### Bears: Bear Claws Requirements

1. Learn about three common designs of pocketknives.
2. Learn knife safety and earn your Whittling Chip.\*
3. Do one of the following:
  - A. Using a pocketknife, carve two items.
  - B. With a pocketknife, safely perform each of these tasks:
    - (1) Demonstrate how to cut a piece of rope, twine, or fishing line.
    - (2) Open a sealed box without damaging the contents.
    - (3) Open a can with the can opener tool on a pocketknife.
    - (4) Remove and replace the screws on an object with the screwdriver tool on a pocketknife.
    - (5) Open a letter.

## Program

Set aside two hours for your complete program, more if you think your Cubs will need extra time.

Materials:

- Pocketknives (each Cub should provide their own) - While using plastic knives is preferred by some, give them the opportunity to learn the responsibility and care of their own knife from the start.
- 2 bars of soap for each Cub (Ivory seems to be the most recommended online)
- Print out and laminate poster pages (attached). Use them in the program - hold these up and have the Cubs read them back as you work your way down the requirements.
- Print out soap carving pattern – 1 per Cub
- Print out Pocket Knife Safety Quizzes – 1 per Cub
- Pencils
- Newspapers (to go under while carving, a Scout is clean)
- Toothpicks
- Items for mini first aid kits to care for small knife cuts

### **Step 1: Common Designs of Pocketknives**

1. Show poster of three common designs of pocketknives. If you have them available, bring the actual knives with you to demonstrate.
2. Explain which is permissible for use with your Pack (ask your Committee if you have rules or restrictions).

### **Step 2: Handling a Pocketknife**

1. Have the Cubs stand in a circle, arm's length apart. Have them turn side to side to make sure they are not touching one another. Explain to them that this is the safe distance they should keep when using a knife, even refer to it as a "blood circle." Make sure they understand that if someone ever enters their "blood circle," their knife must be put away or they must relocate to a safe area.
2. Hold up the posters for "Knives Safety Rules" and "Knives are Not Toys." Have them read each line together as a group before moving on.
3. Teach how to safely open the knife. "Hold the knife in one hand, with the blade side facing away from you, and open the blade with your other hand. Most blades have a small semicircle cut into the blade near the top to give you better hold on the blade while opening it. You can use your fingernail or grab that edge with your

fingers to pull the blade open. Be sure to hold the sides of the knife firmly as you open the blade. It is often easier to open if you pull both the blade and the knife apart at the same time — use a motion similar to those of bird wings flapping up.

“Never sling the knife to “pop open” the blade. Be sure that the blade opens all the way; some will “click” when the blade is fully opened. If necessary, immediately turn the knife so that the point and blade edge face away from you.”

*(taken from [https://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Whittling\\_Chip\\_Course](https://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Whittling_Chip_Course))*

4. Each Cub should inspect their pocketknife, make sure the blade is not loose, cracked, broken or chipped.

5. Now let them practice closing the knife. For those with locking blades, this may take a little practice. Let them open and close the knife a few times before moving on to the next step.

“Wipe the blade clean. Hold the knife handle so that the point and edge of the blade are facing away from you and your fingers are not under the blade. If the blade has a lock, disengage the lock with your other hand. Slowly close the blade with the palm of your hand against the back of the blade. Once closed, place the knife back into your pocket for added safety.”

*(taken from [https://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Whittling\\_Chip\\_Course](https://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Whittling_Chip_Course))*

6. Demonstrate how to properly hand a pocketknife to someone else. Have the Cub practice handing it to you. Instruct them to make sure the knife is safely closed and locked, and to not let go of the knife until you say “thank you.” Trick them a few times by trying to take the knife without saying “thank you.” Help them to understand that the knife is a responsibility of theirs at all times.

7. Show Cubs what to do if a knife is accidentally dropped: step back and let it fall, do not try and catch it with bare hands.

8. Demonstrate basic first aid if a Cub should get a small cut while using their pocketknife. Have Cubs create a small first aid kit (if they don’t already have one) to care for a cut.

### **Step 3: Carvings**

1. Show the Cubs how to do simple chip shavings using a bar of soap (Ivory seems to be the most recommended online). Let them practice moving the knife along the bar of soap.

2. Carving 1: Have them trace a pattern using a toothpick. (Cut out patterns in advance to be used. If printing, scale the pattern to fit the size of your soap bar). They should cut the soap with their knife but can use the toothpick to add details.

3. Carving 2: Let the Cubs draw their own design on the second bar of soap and then carve.

4. When all carving is done, have Cubs put their knives away safely.

#### **Step 4: Pledge**

1. Have the Cubs come back together and sit. Hold up the posters for “Knives Safety Rules” and “Knives are Not Toys.” Have them read each line together as a group again.

2. Hold up the Pocketknife Pledge sign and have them read each line together as a group. Do this at least twice, or until Cubs are rolling their eyes because they already know it.

3. Issue the Pocket Knife Safety Quiz.

4. If you are issuing the Whittling Chip cards the same day, have the Cubs sign the cards. Otherwise, use the tracking sheet available for download at [https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/cubscouts/pdf/512-028\\_WB.pdf](https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/cubscouts/pdf/512-028_WB.pdf)

## **Additional Resources**

Certification Tracking Form

[https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/cubscouts/pdf/512-028\\_WB.pdf](https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/cubscouts/pdf/512-028_WB.pdf)

Knife Safety Quiz

<https://boyslife.org/quizzes/151313/knife-safety-quiz/>

Tips for teaching Scouts how to sharpen a knife

<https://scoutingmagazine.org/2011/10/tips-for-sharpening-your-favorite-blade/>

MeritBadge.org Whittling Chip Course

[https://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Whittling\\_Chip\\_Course](https://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Whittling_Chip_Course)

Pocketknife Safety Quiz

<https://scoutermom.com/meeting/bear-den-meeting-plan-bear-claws-pocketknife-safety-and-soap-carving/>

## Three Types of Pocketknives



### Pen Knife

The pen knife has hinges and blades on both ends of the knife. Often, they will have two or three blades at each end. They are also smaller than the other two types.

### Jack Knife

The jack knife is only hinged on one end, but it may have more than one blade. Outdoorsmen such as hunters, campers and fishermen tend to like these knives.



### Multi-purpose Knife

The multi-purpose knife is popular because there are so many different things they can have on them. Obviously, they'll have a knife blade, but they can also have a file, scissors, tweezers, can or bottle openers and even a mini-saw blade.



## **Knife Safety Rules**

1. A knife is a tool, not a toy
2. Know how to sharpen a knife.
3. A sharp knife is safer than a dull knife because it is less likely to slip and cut you.
4. Keep the blade clean.
5. Never carry an open pocketknife
6. When you are not using your knife, close it and put it away.
7. When you are using the cutting blade, do not try to make big shavings or chips. Eay does it.
8. Make a safety circle. Before you pick up your knife to use it, stretch your arm out and turn in a circle.
9. If you cannot touch anyone or anything else, it is safe to use your knife.
10. While using your knife, be sure to watch in case someone walks toward you and gets too close.

## **Knives Are Not Toys Guidelines**

1. Close the blade with the palm of your hand.
2. Never use a knife on something that will dull or break it.
3. Be Careful that you do not cut yourself or any person nearby.
4. Never use a knife to strip the bark from a tree.
5. Do not carve your initials into anything that does not belong to you.

## **Pocketknife Pledge**

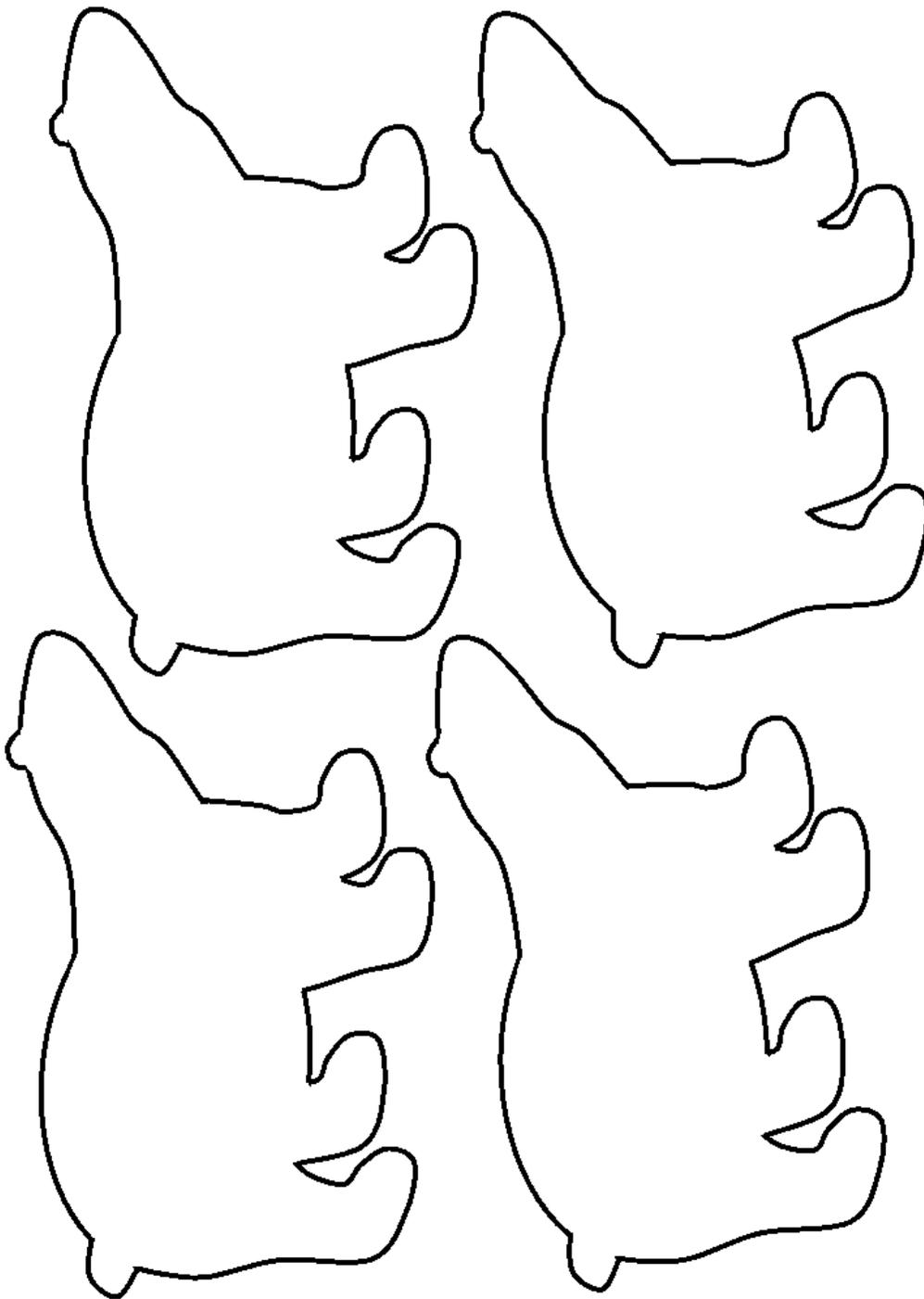
I will treat my pocketknife with the respect due a useful tool.

I will always close my pocketknife and put it away when not in use.

I will not use my pocketknife when it might injure someone near me.

I promise never to throw my pocketknife for any reason.

I will use my pocketknife in a safe manner at all times.



## Soap Carving Patterns

<http://www.makinglearningfun.com/t.asp?b=m&t=http://www.makinglearningfun.com/Activities/Bears/PolarBear/PolarBearPatternOutline/PolarBearPatternOutline-4.gif>

## Shavings &amp; Chips Quiz – Answer Sheet

**Part I: Circle the correct answer**

- T True / False      1. A knife is NOT a toy.  
 F True / False      2. A dull knife is safer than a sharp knife.  
 F True / False      3. Dirt on a knife blade helps keep it sharp.  
 T True / False      4. Never carve your initials on anything that does NOT belong to you.  
 F True / False      5. A knife is handy for cutting bark off trees.  
 T True / False      6. A pocketknife should always be closed when it is not in use.  
 F True / False      7. It's okay to keep your knife wet.  
 F True / False      8. A Cub Scout can take his knife to school if he has his Whittin' Chip card with him.  
 F True / False      9. You should carry your open knife in your pocket.  
 T True / False      10. You should close the blade with the palm of your hand.  
 F True / False      11. A Cub Scout should carry a fixed blade knife if it is kept in a sheath.

**Part II: Fill in the blank**

1. Close the blade with the   PALM   of your hand.  
 2. A   KNIFE   should never be used on something that will dull or break it.  
 3. People watching you work with your knife should not enter your   SAFETY CIRCLE  .  
 4. Your knife should always be kept   CLEAN   and   DRY  .  
 5. Scissors should be handled with the same safety rules as a   KNIFE  .  
 6. Always   WALK   when carrying a knife or scissors.

**Part III: Circle the correct answer**

1. Always keep your knife (   dry   / wet ) so it will not rust.  
 2. When using a knife, do not make (   big   / little ) shavings or chips.  
 3. A (   dull   / sharp ) knife is more likely to cut you.  
 4. A Cub Scout (   can   / cannot ) take his knife to school if he has a den meeting right after school and he keeps the knife in his backpack.  
 5. A knife should be cleaned (   before   / after ) cutting food.  
 6. A fixed blade knife or scissors should be passed to another person ( blade /   handle   ) first.

**The Pocketknife Pledge (fill in the blanks)**

- I understand the reason for   SAFETY   rules.  
 I will treat my pocketknife with the   RESPECT   due a useful tool.  
 I will always   CLOSE   my pocketknife and put it away when not in use.  
 I will not use my pocketknife when it might   INJURE   someone near me.  
 I   PROMISE   never to throw my pocketknife for any reason.  
 I will use my pocketknife in a safe manner at   ALL   times.

Download printable Pocketknife Safety Quiz from  
<https://scoutermom.com/meeting/bear-den-meeting-plan-bear-claws-pocketknife-safety-and-soap-carving/>