



Knives are an important tool, and one of the missions of Boys Scouts is to teach you the safe and appropriate use of knives as tools.

This policy lists the rules of Troop 618 on how you, as a Scout, may carry and use knives in all Troop activities including regular Troop meetings and Troop outings. We expect all Troop 618 Scouts to understand and to follow these rules at all times.

1. These are the rules for safe knife use at Troop 618 meetings and outings.
  - a. Troop discipline is enforced by the adult leaders, not by other Scouts.
  - b. You have a right to be treated fairly and safely.
  - c. If you don't feel that you are being treated fairly or safely, talk to an adult that you trust.
  
2. Before you can use a knife at a Scout meeting or outing, you must earn your Totin' Chip, and carry it with you.
  - a. If you misuse knives (or saws or axes) your Totin' Chip may be taken away by a Scoutmaster.
    - i. The Scoutmaster will always explain why your Chip is being taken, so you can learn from your experience. If you don't understand what you did wrong, ask to have it explained until you do understand.
    - ii. If you are careless with a knife (or saw or axe) one corner of the Chip will be cut off. If all four corners are cut off, you will lose the Chip and have to re-earn it before you can use or carry a knife again.
    - iii. If you use a knife (or saw or axe) in a very dangerous way, you will lose the Chip right away and have to re-earn it before you can use or carry a knife again.
    - iv. If the Scoutmaster feels that it is necessary, he/she may call for a three way meeting between you, your parents and the Scoutmaster to make sure that everyone understands the importance of knife safety before you are allowed to re-earn your Totin' Chip.

3. **Knives are tools, not toys and not weapons.** For your safety and the safety of other people there are things you must never do with a knife. You must learn these rules to earn your Totin' Chip. You can lose your Totin' Chip if you don't follow these rules.
  - a. You must never point a knife at another person or threaten them with a knife, even if you are "just playing around".
  - b. You must not be careless with your knife. Always think about other people and your surroundings when you are using a knife.
  - c. You must not walk around with your knife with the blade open. Always fold the blade before carrying your knife or handing it to another person.
  - d. You must not use your knife to carve or damage other people's property or public property.
  - e. You must not use your knife to hurt, carve or damage any animals, plants or natural features.
  
4. You are only allowed to bring some kinds of knives to Scout meetings and outings.
  - a. Only folding knives may be carried. You are not allowed to carry a fixed blade or sheath knife at a Troop meeting or outing.
  - b. You may not carry a knife with a blade longer than 4 inches.
  - c. You may not carry a knife with a double edged blade.
  - d. You may not carry a knife which is designed to be opened with one hand, no matter what the blade length is.
    - i. That includes any type of butterfly knife, switchblade or any other assisted opening knife.
    - ii. When you use a knife you always need to be thoughtful and careful. Use two hands, and give careful thought to what you are doing. An easy opening knife can tempt you to be careless or to misuse your knife
  - e. Always keep your knife sharp, clean and in good condition. You are more likely to hurt yourself with a knife if it is dull or has a loose blade.
  
5. Sometimes you will use other kinds of knives, such as fixed blade kitchen knives and fixed blade fishing knives.
  - a. As a Scout you cannot carry them in your pocket or in your personal gear.
  - b. These knives are kept in their proper places. For example kitchen knives are kept in patrol boxes and fishing knives are kept in tackle boxes, when they are not being used.
  
6. If you bring a knife which is not allowed, your Scoutmaster will
  - a. Explain to you why the knife is not allowed.
  - b. Take the knife and hold it until the end of the meeting or outing, when it will be returned to you.
  - c. If you repeatedly bring knives which are not allowed, the Scoutmaster may decide to call for a three way meeting between you, your parents and the Scoutmaster, to make sure that everyone understands the rules, before the knife is returned to you.