

Pocket Knife and Jackknife Safety

Council Approval: Not Required

Activity Permitted For: B J C S A

Not Permitted For: *Daisy Girl Scouts *Daisies can learn basic knife safety with cardboard/paper examples.

Pocket Knife Safety training is covered in Lodge Camping or Outdoor Overnight training

About Pocket Knives/Jackknives

An important and versatile tool for camping, the pocket/jackknife is safe when handled carefully. It may have more than one blade or tool. It may include an awl for drilling holes, a can opener, or a combination screwdriver and bottle cap opener. Always inform parents prior to teaching girls about this skill. All Girl Scouts should receive proper training and sign off on Girl Scout Pocket knife/Jackknife Safety Pledge.

Learn More:

- <https://knife-depot.com/pages/teaching-kids-about-knife-safety>
- <https://gearjunkie.com/teaching-kids-knife-safety-outdoors>

Include Girls with Disabilities

Talk to girls with disabilities and their caregivers. Ask about needs, interest, and special accommodations. Check with facilities ahead of time to determine what accommodations can be made.

Equity

In addition to physical and social-emotional disabilities consider the history, culture, and past experiences of the girls in your troop that could affect a girl's ability to equally participate in an activity. Work with girls and families to understand how an activity is perceived. Ensure that all girls and their families feel comfortable that they have access to whatever is needed to fully participate such as the proper equipment, prior experiences and skills needed to enjoy the activity.

Assess participants' maturity level. Participants must be old enough to understand safety procedures and handle equipment so as not to endanger themselves and others.

Dress appropriately for the activity. Make sure girls and adults avoid wearing dangling earrings, bracelets, and necklaces that may become entangled in equipment. Also have girls tie back long hair. Always have on Closed Toed Shoes.

Safety Activity Checkpoints - They should focus on the following areas:

- How to open and close safely
- How and when to use it
- How to properly store it when not in use
- How to sharpen the blade
- How to clean the blade/knife
- Learn how to pass and acknowledge when you receive it by saying Thank You.
- Learn about the circle of safety.
- Always keep the knife pointed in safe direction.
- Learn about additional emergency and safety procedures.

Verify instructor knowledge and experience. One adult needs to be trained in pocket-knife/jackknife safety (depending on which you are doing). These checkpoints should be reviewed with the facilitator and the Girl Scout Pocket knife/Jackknife Safety Pledge should be signed off.

Pocket Knife/Jackknife Safety Pledge

Girl Scout Pocket Knife/Jackknife Safety Pledge

Carrying a pocket-knife/jackknife is an honor and a responsibility. I have participated in a specific training/workshop on pocket-knife/jackknife handling and safety. I agree to the following guidelines, for the safety of myself and those around me, always:

1. I will respect my pocket-knife/jackknife, always, and use it as a designated tool.
2. I will always keep my pocket-knife/jackknife closed and stored when not in use.
3. I will not use my pocket-knife/jackknife when there is a chance that someone could be hurt.
4. I promise to never throw or toss my pocket-knife/jackknife.
5. I will always use my pocket-knife/jackknife safely and in the manner I was instructed.