

Council Approval: Required

Activity Permitted for: B J C S A

Not Permitted for: Daisies*

**Daisies can learn basic knife safety with cardboard/wood examples.*



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. Inform parents prior to teaching this skill. All Girl Scouts should receive proper training and sign off on the [Girl Scout Pocket Knife/Jackknife Safety Pledge](#).

Learn More

- Montana Knife Company's [Knife Skills for Kids: How to Teach Your Children Safe Knife Use](#)
- [Gear Junkie: Kids and Knives](#)

Include Girl Scout Members with Disabilities. Talk to Girl Scout members with disabilities and their caregivers. Ask about needs and accommodations. Always be sure to contact the location and/or the instructor in advance to ensure they are able to accommodate those with disabilities.

Equity. If planning to allow *any* pocket knives on Girl Scout adventures, provide knife safety education for all troop members, whether or not they own a knife. See about borrowing from your council or a neighboring troop for the education piece. Consider the history, culture, and past experiences of the Girl Scout members in your troop that could affect their ability to equally participate in an activity. Work with members and families to understand how an activity is perceived. Ensure that all Girl Scout members and their families feel comfortable and have access to whatever is needed to fully participate, such as proper equipment, prior experiences, and the skills needed to enjoy the activity.

Emergency Action Plan (EAP). Review and document your Emergency Action Plan (EAP) before starting any activity and review it so all are prepared. Think through scenarios of what can go wrong such as an accident, physical injury, missing person, sudden illness, or sudden weather or water emergencies.

Pocket Knife/Jackknife Checkpoints

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. Avoid wearing dangling earrings, bracelets, and necklaces that may become entangled in equipment. Make sure long hair is tied back and always wear closed-toed shoes.

Skill learning and development should focus on the following areas:

- How to open and close knife safely
- How and when to use knife
- How to safely store knife when not in use
- How to sharpen the blade
- How to clean the blade/knife
- How to pass and acknowledge when you receive the knife by saying Thank You
- What the circle of safety is

- Always keeping the knife pointed in safe direction
- Additional emergency and safety procedures

Verify instructor knowledge and experience. One adult needs to be trained in pocketknife/jackknife safety, which can be obtained through GSNI's Outdoor Training. These checkpoints should be reviewed with the facilitator and the [Girl Scout Pocket Knife/Jackknife Safety Pledge](#) should be signed off.

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 and workshop on pocket knife/jackknife handling and safety. For the safety of myself and those around me, I agree to the following guidelines:

I will always:

- respect my pocket knife/jackknife and use it as a designated tool,
- keep my pocket knife/jackknife closed and stored when not in use,
- be sure to not use my pocket knife/jackknife when there is a chance that someone could be hurt,
- promise to never throw or toss my pocket knife/jackknife, and
- use my pocket knife/jackknife safely and in the way in which I was taught.

Date: _____

Girl Scout Name/Signature: _____

Responsible Adult Name/Signature: _____