



Knife Safety

Knowing how to handle and use knives is an important skill for girls to learn. It gives girls a sense of independence, ownership in tasks that require the use of knives, and necessary emergency skills and knowledge. Girls who gain respect for tools at a young age generally treat all tools with consideration and respect. This knowledge will pay off in other ways as they grow older. 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.

This patch will focus on the basic safety of using knives, as well as the basic using of a knife. According to GSUSA's 2019 Safety Activity Checkpoints, Daisy Girl Scouts can only learn basic knife safety with cardboard/wood knives.

How to earn the Knife Safety patch the Girl Scout way:

Steps:

1. **Discover**—Discover how to use a knife safely.
2. **Connect**—Make a paper knife and practice using a knife.
3. **Take Action**—Use a knife to carve something in a bar of soap.

Materials Needed:

In order to complete this patch, you'll need:

- card stock or construction paper
- a brass fastener
- a template (included)
- scissors
- a worksheet (included)
- lipstick
- a bar of soap
- a toothpick/pencil
- a knife, plastic will work
- an adult to supervise girls using knives

STEP

1

What are knives used for, and what are the safety aspects?

Knives are used for various things. Write down a few things you would use knives for:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

When using a knife, there are few things to consider. Review opening and closing knives, caring for knives, knife etiquette, and knife use on the included worksheet.

STEP

2

Make a paper knife.

Use the template on the attached worksheet to make a paper knife out of card stock or construction paper.

Put lipstick on what the sharp part of the blade would be. Practice opening and closing knife while remembering the information you read about in Step 1. Make sure not to get lipstick on you!

STEP 2—continued

Practice handing a knife off to someone, making sure to close the knife and making sure the receiver states “Thank you” or “Got it.”

Stand with your arm out and turn in a circle. That is your safety zone.

STEP

3 Use a knife to carve something in a bar of soap.

Choose a bar of soap and the knife you are going to use. A plastic knife will work for younger girls.

Instructions to carving in a bar of soap:

1. Get some nice bars for the eventual finished product, but don't forget some inexpensive practice bars. (Ivory is perfect.)
2. Think of some simple designs that will not be impossible to carve. Fish, a simple bird, or perhaps just a shape, such as a heart, are a good starting point.
3. Sketch the outline of the shape on the bar with a plastic knife or other sharp instrument such as a toothpick.
4. Hold the knife in your right hand and the soap in your left. Reverse this if you're left-handed.
5. Pay attention to the feel of the knife. How thick a layer can you take off at once? Where does the knife get stuck?
6. Use a sharp knife to gradually shave away layers until you achieve the shape you want.

Be sure to remember your knife safety skills!

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 and I will always agree to the following guidelines to ensure the safety of myself and those around me at all times:

1. I will respect my pocket knife/jackknife at all times 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 a manner I was instructed to do so.

Girl Scout Signature/Date

Responsible Adult Signature/Date

All done?

CONGRATULATIONS! You've completed all the necessary steps to earn the Knife Safety patch.

After completing the activities from each step, visit or call a Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania retail shop at **800-248-3355** to purchase your patch.* A patch may be worn on the back of a vest, sash, or tunic.

**Patch shown may be substituted with similar patch, based on availability.*

Using a Knife

Opening & Closing Knives

- Always use both hands to open a folding knife.
- Keep fingers on the sides of the knife.
- When closing, keep fingers to the side and refrain from wrapping fingers around the handle into which the blade will be inserted.
- Always open and close a knife slowly and intentionally.
- Keep the knife closed when not in use or when being carried.
- Close the knife before passing it to someone.

Caring for Knives

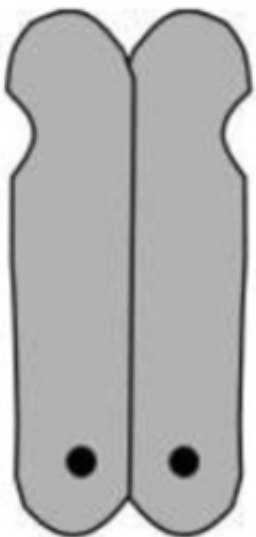
- Keep knives dry and off the ground.
- Keep knives away from dirt and sand.
- Keep knives away from open flames and extreme heat.
- Do not use your knife to pry things open, to hammer, or to “chop” on wood.
- Use your knife appropriately to cut, scrape, or whittle wood, food, or rope and not on rocks or metal.
- Carefully clean your knife when you’re done using it.

Knife Etiquette

- Knives should not be used to deface or disfigure any property, plant, or animals.
- Knives are not toys and should not be shown, waved, or thrown in jest or in a threatening manner.

Knife Use

- Maintain a “safety circle.”
- Hold knife by its handle. Do not place your thumb or finger on the blade.
- Use only a sharp knife. Dull knives are dangerous.
- Keep a firm grip on the handle.
- When scraping or whittling, use “pushing” strokes away from your body rather than toward.
- Do not throw your knife.
- Before walking or running, put your knife down or close it and put it away.
- Close a knife before passing it to someone. If the knife does not close, hold the dull edge of the blade with the sharp edge facing the ground. Offer the handle to the intended receiver. The receiver should acknowledge that she or he has received it and has a grip on it by saying, “Thank you.”



Handle



Blade

Directions for Making a Paper Knife

1. Cut the handle and blade shapes as shown on the left. The handle is all one piece. The shapes don't have to be exact. Make them the size of a real pocketknife.
2. Punch holes in the cardboard where indicated by the black dots.
3. Fold the handle along the center line.
4. Insert the blade into the handle, aligning the hole in the blade with the holes in the handle. Remember to orient the blade so that it is facing the same direction as it would in an actual knife.
5. Use a brass fastener to attach the blade to the handle.