

Knife Safety

This resource can help with the following Backwoods areas:

- Stage 1: I know how to use hand tools safely.
- Stage 2: I can use hand tools correctly.
- Stage 3: I can use camp tools safely on camp.
- Stage 5: I know how to use and care for tools (of all kinds) safely.

The Knife is of the most common tools used by Scouts in Backwoods and other Adventure activities. The safe and competent use of these tools is paramount to ensure that the users remain accident free. What is outlined below are 'Safe Practises' that should be used **and** importantly **revised** every time our members are undertaking tasks using knives.

The Knife

By following the advice below, we lessen the risk of injury with a knife.

Blood Circle - To use the Knife safely, the user should be aware of their surroundings and everyone that is near them. They should establish a 'Blood Circle' or 'Blood Bubble' which is an area of danger that has the radius of the length of their arm, **plus** the knife. When using the knife no-one should enter this circle – in order to prevent accidental injury.

Knife Carry – the Knife should be sheathed and carried on your belt, or placed in a safe location, at all times. It should only be removed from its sheath when you are performing tasks and returned to the sheath when the task are completed – at NO time should the Knife be left on the ground as the potential for accidents greatly increases.



Passing a Knife – To pass a Knife safely from one person to another, follow these guidelines:-

While holding the Knife with the Forearm grip, bring the rear of the blade back so that is touching the webbed area between you thumb and forefinger. At the same time ensure that you fingers on the grip are below the line of the blade edge.



Offer the Knife and the person receiving the Knife should grip it firmly.



At the same time say 'Thank You' or otherwise confirm that they have a hold of the knife so the other person can release their grip.



Using the Knife - Whereas there are different techniques for using a Knife, we are going to look at a safe method of using it with the forearm grip, as this is the most common way the knife is used. In this image the Knife is used to the side which means that the resulting cutting action ensures that the Knife goes into a safe area away from the user.



In this image the user on the left is using the knife to his front and the resulting action of the knife ensures that it goes into a safe area - once again away from the user. **Note** that his elbows are over the top of his knees which ensures that the action of the knife is always away from the user.

