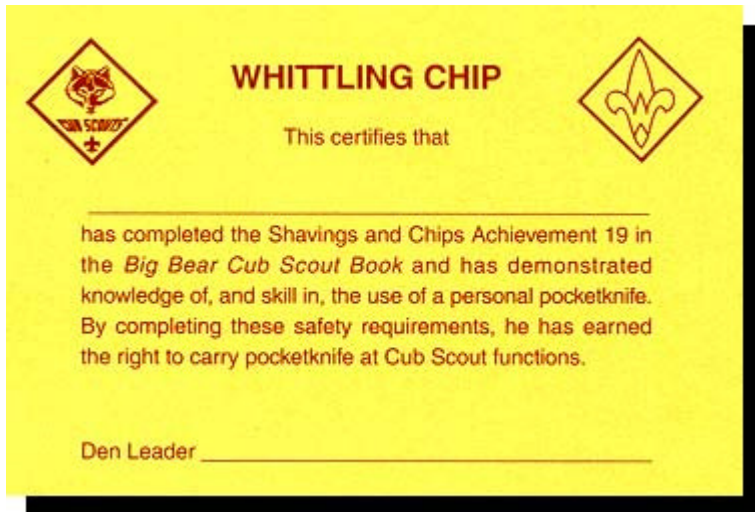


# Earn the Official BSA Whittling Chip Wallet Card !



Bear Cub Scouts can earn the Official Whittling Chip wallet card by mastering the "Knife Safety Rules" in this document.

The object is to teach a boy that:

- A Cub Scout knife is an important tool:
  - You can do many things with its blades.
  - The cutting blade is the one you will use most of the time.
  - With it you can make shavings and chips and carve all kinds of things.
- You must be very careful when you whittle or carve:
  - Take good care of your knife.
  - Always remember that a knife is a tool, not a toy.
  - Use it with care so that you don't hurt yourself or ruin what you are carving.

The "Whitlin' Chip" patch is NOT considered an "official" BSA badge (it cannot be worn on the Uniform, only on the patch vest). The only BSA item that is issued in connection with this skill is the pocket card which is carried by the Cub Scout.

## The Rules

- Cub Scouts can **only** carry or use a knife at scout functions under the following conditions:
  - They have earned the Whittling Chip Card and have it in their possession
  - And the Leader in charge gives permission
  - And the Parent (or Guardian) gives permission
- NEVER take your knife to school (not even to Pack Meetings at the school).
- You can lose your Whittling Chip Card under the following circumstances:
  - For each minor violation of the knife safety rules, one corner of the Whittling Chip Card will be cut:
    - If all four corners are cut, you lose the Card and must re-earn it.
  - Any major violations of the knife safety rules (example, cutting yourself or someone else) will result in the immediate loss of the Card and you must re-earn it.

## **Knives Are Not Toys**

- Close the blade with the palm of your hand.
- Always cut away from you, never toward you.
- When you are using the cutting blade, do not try to make big shavings or chips.
- Be careful that you do not cut yourself or any person nearby.
  - Learn & use the “Safety Circle”.
  - Learn & use the “make eye contact” method of handing a knife to someone else.
- Never carry an open knife in your hand.
- When you are not using your knife, close it and put it away.
- Never use a knife on something that will dull or break it.
- Never throw a knife for any reason.
- Never use a knife to strip the bark from a tree.
- Know how to sharpen a knife. A sharp knife is safer because it is less likely to slip & cut you.
- Keep the blade clean.
- Keep your knife dry.
- Do not carve your initials into anything that does not belong to you.
- Easy does it.
- Always think before you cut.

## **POCKETKNIFE PLEDGE**

- I understand the reason for safety rules.
- I will treat my pocketknife with the respect due a useful tool.
- I will always close my pocketknife and put it away when I'm not using it.
- I will not use my pocketknife when it might injure someone near me.
- I promise never to throw my pocketknife for any reason.
- I will use my pocketknife in a safe manner at all times.

## Test your knowledge

You should close the blade with the palm of your hand

- True
- False

A knife is just a toy.

- True
- False

It's okay to keep your knife wet.

- True
- False

A dull knife is more likely to slip and cut you.

- True
- False

You should carry your open knife in your pocket.

- True
- False

Carving your initials into a tree is okay.

- True
- False

The Pocketknife Pledge (fill in the blanks)

I understand the reason for \_\_\_\_\_ rules.

I will treat my pocketknife with the \_\_\_\_\_ due a useful tool.

I will always \_\_\_\_\_ my pocketknife and put it away when not in use.

I will not use my pocketknife when it might \_\_\_\_\_ someone near me.

I \_\_\_\_\_ never to throw my pocketknife for any reason.

I will use my pocketknife in a safe manner at \_\_\_\_\_ times.

close, respect, injure, promise, all, safety

## Learning to Whittle (Carve) Using Soap

1. The Tools – your medium and tools are simple and inexpensive; a large cake of white soap (Ivory Soap's shape and texture are most satisfactory), a paring knife, one or two "manicure" orangewood sticks, pencil and paper for sketching (or pre-printed patterns).
2. Preparing the Soap – it's best to unwrap the soap and allow it to dry for a day or two before you start carving. Cut away the raised edges; scrape off the lettering. You'll have a beautiful flat surface for your carving. Carving on a tray will keep everything ship-shape and make it easy to collect the chips.
3. Your Idea – your subject is often suggested by the shape and quality of the soap. Don't be too ambitious at first. Choose a simple design with a solid, basic shape, without too many delicate undercuts or projections.
4. From Idea to Soap – if you have a clear mental picture of your idea, you can carve directly in the soap, or you may use the orangewood stick to outline a rough sketch on all surfaces of the form you wish to carve. Beginners may wish to sketch ideas on a piece of paper first, then transfer it to the soap by tracing or by using carbon paper.
5. First Rough Cuts – regardless of the way you mark the rough outline on the surface of the soap, your next step is to make your first rough cuts, removing the greater part of the soap which will not be used to carve your design. Place the soap on the table or tray, and holding it with the left hand, start cutting at the upper right-hand corner, leaving about 1/4" margin outside your outline or penciled sketch. Cut clear through the cake, removing excess soap all the way around. After making these first cuts, you will probably find it more comfortable to carve along your outline, using the knife as if peeling a potato. Keep 1/8" to 1/4" away from your guide lines to allow for finer work later.  
Caution – in roughing out, cut away in small pieces or slices. Soap often breaks if cut in big chunks, and your whole design might be spoiled. Cut too little rather than too much, because you cannot put back a piece once it is cut off (or breaks off).
6. Shaping the Model – round out your design by cutting around the corners. As you work, keep turning the soap, always keeping the shape of the piece in mind. Watch your high points (those that jut out farthest from the surface) and your low points (those farthest in). Carve gradually from the high points toward the deepest cuts. It may help to use your knife point in some of this work. Keep observing the whole form as you work at each point. Don't try to finish any one part in detail before another.
7. To Polish – first, allow the model to dry for a day or two. Then, rub it with a soft paper napkin, being careful not to break off corners or projections. Finally, rub it gently with finger tops or palm.
8. Details – when the piece is about finished and all planes and forms shaped, you can smooth rough edges with the edge of the knife and mark in details like eyes or ears, etc. with the knife tip or with your orangewood stick.
9. Soap Sample Designs – attached are some sample ideas of what could be carved out of soap (these may need to be enlarged or made smaller depending on the soap size). Please keep in mind shapes with feet are the ones most likely to break or crack. Simple shapes like acorns are just as challenging, but will not crack as easily. Encourage the scouts to put a lot of detail on the shapes that are plain.

Soap Carving Templates

