



## Pocket Knife and Jackknife Safety

**Activity Permitted for:** B J C S A

**Not Permitted for:** Daisies\*

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

**Council Approval:** Not Required

**Parent/Guardian Approval:** Required

**Required Training:** At least one adult must be trained in camping/outdoor cooking as required by council: 281 GS 301A Outdoor Education Planning (gsLearn) and 281 GS 301B Outdoor Education Overnight. *See below for training prerequisites*

### 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

- [Knife Depot: Teaching Kids About Knife Safety](#)
- [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.** In addition to physical and social-emotional disabilities, 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.

**Infectious Disease Guidelines.** Girl Scouts use a commonsense approach to health and safety. Before participating in Girl Scouting activities, members are to undergo health checks at home for any symptoms such as fever of 100.4 (or need for fever-reducing medications) chills, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, stomach aches, nausea, or vomiting. Members with any of these symptoms or in need of fever-reducing medication **MUST** stay home until fully recovered.

**Emergency Action Plan (EAP).** Review and document your Emergency Action Plan (EAP) before taking girls out for any activity and review it with the girls so they too are prepared. Think through scenarios of what can go wrong such as an accident, physical injury to a girl, missing girl, sudden illness, or sudden weather or water emergencies.

### **Pocket Knives/Jackknives Checkpoints**

**Training Prerequisites.** Troop/Group Program leaders must complete GSUSA's online leadership courses and GSVSC's 281 GS 201 Trips & Overnights course in gsLearn.

**Required Training:** At least one adult must be trained in camping/outdoor cooking as required by council: 281 GS 301A Outdoor Education Planning (gsLearn) and 281 GS 301B Outdoor Education Overnight. Adult volunteer chaperones must complete GSVSC's 281 GS 104 Orientation for Support Volunteers online course in gsLearn.

**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. 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 it 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 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.

GSVSC Outdoor Education training (GS 301A Outdoor Education Planning and GS 301B Outdoor Education Overnight) is required before including this activity with troop or group.

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_