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Chapter 4

Tool Craft

A carpenter may saw out a suitable tree and skillfully scrape off all its bark, And deftly plying his art, produce something fit for daily use. Song of Solomon 13:11

Purpose to educate campers how to properly and safely use camping tools for their intended purposes.

Pocket Knives

... the safer pocket knife is the lock blade knife.

To Open: Hold pocket knife in one hand. With thumb and forefinger of the other hand, carefully pull open the blade.

To Close: Hold back edge of the open blade and close it carefully. If knife is a lock blade pocket knife, you must press the release mechanism to allow the blade to be closed.

To Use: Hold your knife by grasping it firmly around the handle. Always cut *away from you*.

To Clean: Use oil (3-in-1, WD-40, gun oil, etc.) and a clean cloth. If blade is rusty, use Carborundum stone, steel wool with a powdered cleanser, or penetrating oil prior to cleaning with the other oil.

To Sharpen: Carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions for the knife sharpening implement that you have selected. Some of the choices are:

To Pass: It is always best to pass someone a closed knife. If you are passing an open knife or a sheath knife, hold the back side of blade with the handle toward the hand of the receiving party. The receiver will take hold of the handle and will say, "Thank you." This will acknowledge that the person has taken firm hold of the knife's handle.

The passer releases the knife and responds, "You're welcome."

Sheath Knife

The better sheath knife for camping or backpacking is one that has a solid metal blade with a riveted handle. This will allow the knife to be used as a splitting blade for cutting firewood.

To Carry: The sheath knife should always be carried in a sheath. The sheath is carried on the back portion of the right or left hip.

DO NOT

Place your thumb on the blade portion while using it.

Stick your knife in the ground. This dulls the blade.

Saws

Types of Saws

Fixed Saws are bow-type saws.

Collapsible Saws are finger or hand-held chain saw.

Folding Saws are ones that the blade folds into the handle.

The best type of saw to carry backpacking is a folding saw. The blade either folds down or slides down into the handle. This is for safety and protection.

Fixed and Folding Saws

To Use: Only use one hand to hold the handle. To begin, place the blade level and straight on the wood. Use forward and back motions, using the whole length of the blade, to cut the wood. Don't press down on the saw with excessive pressure. (Be careful not to allow the wood to pinch the blade.)

To Pass: Hold the non-handle end of the saw with the blade facing down. Hand the saw to the other person so that they can grip the handle.

Collapsible Saws

To Use and Pass: Carefully follow manufactures instructions.

Hand Axes

Hand Axe: A short handled, single blade tool.

To Pass: The passer should hold the handle close to the ax head with the blade turned to the side,

away from the body and the handle pointed toward the receiver.

To Carry: If you do not have a sheath in which to place the hand ax, hold the handle close to the head of the ax with the blade away from you.

Care for Cutting Tools

To Clean: Wipe oil (3-in-1, WD-40, gun oil, etc.) and a clean cloth. If blade is rusty, use Carborundum stone, steel wool with a powdered cleanser, or penetrating oil prior to cleaning with the other oil.

To Sharpen: Hold or secure a sharpening stone. The angle of the tool should be such as the original edge against the sharpening stone. Move the tool along the stone by using pushing and drawing motions.

Note: For saws, do not attempt to sharpen the blade, dispose and replace with a new blade. Always make sure the blade is sharp! If it is not sharp, replace the blade or have it sharpened by a professional.

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