



Bear Claws

Complete the following requirements.

1. Learn about three common designs of pocketknives.
2. Learn knife safety and earn your Whittling Chip.
3. Do one of the following:
 - a. Using a pocketknife, carve two items.
 - b. With a pocketknife, safely perform each of these tasks:
 - i. Demonstrate how to cut a piece of rope, twine, or fishing line.
 - ii. Open a sealed box without damaging the contents.
 - iii. Open a can with the can opener tool on a pocketknife.
 - iv. Remove and replace the screws on an object with the screwdriver tool on a pocketknife.
 - v. Open a letter.

Week of January 4:

Requirement 1: Learn about three common designs of pocketknives.

Requirement 2: Learn about knife safety.

All pocketknives share one important feature: portability. We'll discuss single-blade jack knives and multi-blade pen knives, pocket toolsets like Swiss Army knives, and multitools like Gerbers. We'll talk about locking mechanisms, too, including lockbacks, frame locks, and ring locks. Please do not bring knives to this meeting.

At this meeting we'll also begin a discussion of knife safety rules.

Week of January 11:

Requirement 2: Learn about knife safety.

We'll talk through the Scouting BSA knife safety rules. We'll also talk about how to safely open, close, and pass a knife, and discuss when carrying a knife is appropriate. I'll briefly address how to sharpen a knife. Bring your training knife and a first-aid kit to this meeting.

When a scout has learned these rules, he or she is eligible for the Whittling Chip. As part of being awarded the Chip, the scout must pledge to be a responsible knife user. Whittling Chip pledge cards will be included in February's packet pickup for those who qualify. The text of the pledge is included below.

Week of January 18:

Requirement 3a: Using a pocketknife, carve two items.

This meeting will be messy! We'll begin work on carving a bar of soap into whatever creation sparks your scout's interest. At the end of this document, I've attached some advice on soap carving and a few simple shape ideas. If your scout wants to try a different shape, please encourage them to do so!

January 18th is MLK Day and this meeting is optional. If your scout does not attend the meeting, please work with him or her to choose and begin a carving project.

Week of January 25:

Requirement 3a: Using a pocketknife, carve two items.

By this meeting, your scout should have completed his or her soap carving. Bring it to the meeting and show it off! We'll talk about other carving projects your scout can undertake, either with the training knife or with his or her own knife.

The Pocketknife Pledge:

In return for the privilege of carrying a pocketknife to designated Cub Scout functions, I agree to the following:

- I will treat my pocketknife with the respect due a useful tool.
- I will always close my pocketknife and put it away when not in use.
- 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.

(This is the text each scout must agree to when earning a Whittling Chip.)

Knives Are Not Toys Guidelines

- Close the blade with the palm of your hand.
- Never use a knife on something that will dull or break it.
- Be Careful that you do not cut yourself or any person nearby.
- Never use a knife to strip the bark from a tree.
- Do not carve your initials into anything that does not belong to you.

Knife Safety Rules

- A knife is a tool, not a toy
- Know how to sharpen a knife.
A sharp knife is safer than a dull knife because it is less likely to slip and cut you.
- Keep the blade clean.
- Never carry an open pocketknife
- When you are not using your knife, close it and put it away.
- When you are using the cutting blade, do not try to make big shavings or chips.
Easy does it.
- Make a safety circle. Before you pick up your knife to use it, stretch your arm out and turn in a circle.
If you cannot touch anyone or anything else, it is safe to use your knife.
While using your knife, be sure to watch in case someone walks toward you and gets too close.

St. Charles Area Woodcarvers

www.stcharlesareawoodcarvers.com



We meet at the Department of Energy Weldon Spring Site; 7295 Highway 94 South (~2miles South of I64/40 on Hwy 94) on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 7:00 pm and at the St. Charles Senior Center (1455 Fairgrounds) every Monday at 9:00am. Visitors are always welcome. Carvers under 18 years of age must be accompanied by their parents.

Soap Sculpture

Carving soap is fun and safe for kids of all ages. Ivory soap is the brand that we recommend but Irish Spring and Tone also work fine. The soap should be fresh. Even when it is wrapped it will dry out and become brittle over a long period of time. After handling the soap, you need to wash your hands before rubbing your eyes or eating.

Use a plastic knife or wooden tool for the carving. If you have a knife with serrated edges, it can be used to carve hair. Scale the patterns to fit the soap you are using. Working over a soda flat (cardboard that holds 24 cans) makes for easy clean-up.

First, transfer the pattern to a stiff material for a template. We usually use poster-board or plastic for the template. Then, cut out the template and place it on the bar of soap with the bottom along one long side. Next, trace around the outline of the template with a pencil or other pointed instrument. It does not need to be too deep, just deep enough to make a visible mark. Now you are ready to start carving. **MAKE SMALL CUTS.** If you try to cut too much at once the likelihood of breaking off a piece increases. And it usually breaks where you do not want the soap to be removed.

When you have the figure roughed out, mark a center line all the way around the outside edge. Begin rounding the figure by cutting corners at about 45 degrees. Continue rounding each side up to the center line. Always cut toward the body of the figure. If you cut toward the edges, you have a pretty good chance of breaking it off the body.

When your figure is rounded, you can leave the knife marks, use the serrated blade to gently scrape the figure to make hair, or rub it with your fingers or a wet cotton swab to make it very smooth.

The waste soap can be packed into the toe of a nylon hose. Tie the top and then rub the outside with wet hands to get enough soap for washing. Tie it up at the hand-washing station when camping.

