

# Pocket Knife and Jackknife Safety



**Council Approval:** Required

High Risk

Tier 1

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

**Not Permitted For:** \*Daisy Girl Scouts

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

## 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:

- <https://knife-depot.com/pages/teaching-kids-about-knife-safety>
- <https://gearjunkie.com/teaching-kids-knife-safety-outdoors>

## Include Girls with Disabilities

Talk to girls with disabilities and their caregivers. Ask about needs, interest, and special accommodations. Check with facilities ahead of time to determine what accommodations can be made.

**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. Also have girls tie back long hair. Always have on Closed Toed Shoes.

**Safety Activity Checkpoints** - They should focus on the following areas:

- How to open and close safely
- How and when to use it
- How to properly store it when not in use
- How to sharpen the blade
- How to clean the blade/knife
- Learn how to pass and acknowledge when you receive it by saying Thank You
- Learn about the circle of safety
- Always keep the knife pointed in safe direction
- Learn about 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.

**Girl Scout Pocket Knife/Jackknife Safety Pledge**

Carrying a pocket knife/jackknife is an honor and a responsibility. I have participated in a specific training/workshop on pocket knife/jackknife handling and safety and I will always agree to the following guidelines to ensure the safety of myself and those around me at all times:

1. I will respect my pocket knife/jackknife at all times and use it as a designated tool.
2. I will always keep my pocket knife/jackknife closed and stored when not in use.
3. I will not use my pocket knife/jackknife when there is a chance that someone could be hurt.
4. I promise to never throw or toss my pocket knife/jackknife.
5. I will always use my pocket knife/jackknife safely and in a manner I was instructed to do so.

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Girl Scout Signature - Date

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Responsible Adult Signature – Date