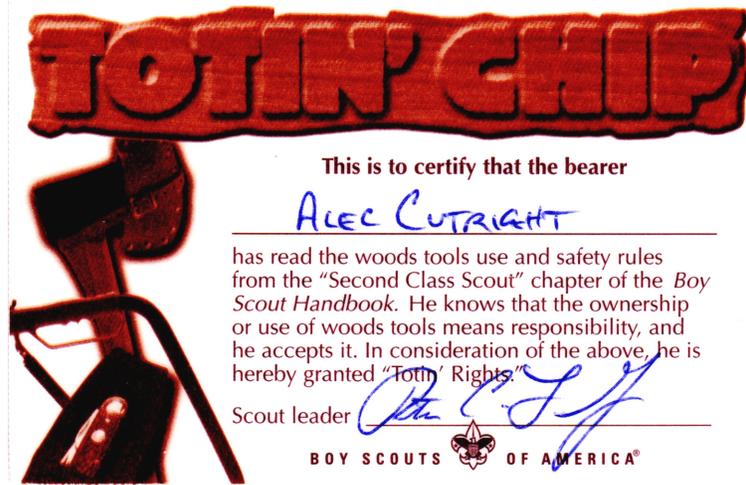


# Totin' Chip: Knife Safety



The Totin' Chip is a "license" for a Boy Scout to use a pocket knife, saw, or axe and can be taken away if a Scout does not follow the safety rules. In order to earn the Totin' Chip, a Scout must learn and demonstrate proper handling, care and safety skills with these important tools. The wording on the Totin' Chip card reads:



## My Responsibility

I will take this card to my Scout leader or someone designated by my leader. I will demonstrate the following.

1. I have read and understand woods tools use and safety rules from the *Boy Scout Handbook*.
2. I can demonstrate proper handling, care, and use of the pocketknife, ax, and saw.
3. I will use the knife, ax, and saw as tools, not playthings, and only when I am willing to give them my full attention.
4. I will respect all safety rules to protect others.
5. I will not cut standing trees or shrubs without specific permission from the landowner.
6. I subscribe to the Outdoor Code.

Alec Cutright  
Scout's signature

34234  
2008 Boy Scouts of America

Your Boy Scout knife is very useful tool and can perform many outdoor tasks. With the cutting blade you can cut rope, peel an apple, cut food, make shavings to start a fire, and carve all kinds of amazing things. You must be very careful and think ahead when you whittle or carve. Always take good care of your knife and use it carefully so that you don't hurt anyone or spoil what you are carving.

## Knife Safety: Mr. Cutright's 12 Good Things to Remember

1. Know the safety rules for handling, using, and passing a knife (thank you !).
2. A knife is a tool, not a toy. No horseplay is allowed or tolerated.
3. Be careful that you do not cut yourself or any person nearby – before you start using a knife, you should be able to completely stretch out your arms and not touch anyone in any direction – this is called a "blood circle." Always be aware of your surroundings and people moving around you.
4. Always cut away from your body and hands – never towards them in case the blade slips.
5. Easy does it - when you are using the cutting blade, do not try to make big shavings or chips.
6. Keep your knife dry, and keep the blade clean, sharp, and free from rust.
7. Know how to detect a dull blade and how to sharpen a knife. A sharp knife is safer because it cuts more easily with less effort so you are less likely to lose control and hurt yourself.
8. A knife should never be used on something that will dull or break it. Do not pry anything with the tip.
9. When you are done using a knife, close it and put it away. Close the blade carefully, keeping your fingers totally out of the way of the blade. Carry your closed knife in a case whenever possible.
10. A knife should never be used to cut living things (plants or animals). Never strip the bark from a tree. Do not carve your initials into anything that does not belong to you, especially not anything living.
11. Never carry an open knife in your hand (just like the "no running with scissors" rule).
12. Never throw a knife for any reason.



**If you are caught being unsafe with your knife, saw, or ax, you will lose one or more corners of your Totin' Chip card. If you lose all four corners, you must repeat the training before you are allowed to use the tools again.**