



## Pocket Knife Safety

Knives can be an indispensable tool to use in the outdoors when used properly and safely. The main emphasis should be on the safety aspect. Here are some safety rules to consider:

1. Make sure that the girls have a safety circle. This is an imaginary circle drawn around them with their outstretched arm. It is their responsibility to respect each others "circle of safety" and to warn someone else when it is being compromised.
2. To open, hold the knife firmly with the fingers of one hand. Find the top edge (slot) of the blade with your thumb and forefinger. Pull the blade all the way out until it clicks in the open position
3. To close, hold the handle in one hand, hold the dull side of the blade with the other. Push the blade closed. There may be a safety button to push before the blade will release.
4. Make sure to open and close the knife with the blade facing up. Never "snap" a blade closed.
5. Never walk with an open jackknife.
6. Whittling should be done in a sturdy, seated position with feet planted and legs apart. This way, arms can be rested on the knees and whittling will occur away from any body parts.
7. Be sure to hold the knife firmly without placing the thumb on the blade.
8. Always whittle away from you, never toward you.
9. When passing any knife, always close it first, never release your grip until the receiver acknowledges receipt (eg., says "thank you"). This way, a knife does not get dropped while in transit.
10. Keep your blade sharp. A sharp knife is safer than a dull one.