

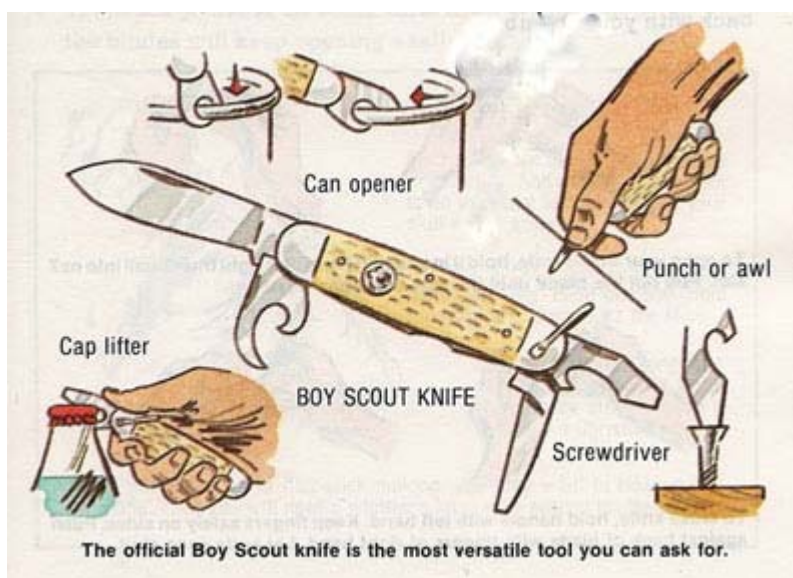
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Pocketknives - A Tool for All Seasons

The Scout Outdoor Essentials are ten items to take whenever you hit the trail (BSA Fieldbook, Chapter 11, Gearing Up). First on the list is a pocketknife, the most useful tool a Scout can carry.

Cut a rope, whittle a stick, open a can, punch a hole. Slice an apple, clean a fish, tighten a screw. Keep a pocketknife handy and you'll be prepared for these and a thousand other tasks at home and in camp.



Using a Pocketknife

Of course a pocketknife is only as useful as the skill and responsibility of the person who owns it. Use yours the right way and it will become a trusted part of your Scouting gear.

Cutting with a knife is a common-sense activity. Be sure you have an area of safety around you where no one could be injured if the blade slips. Keep the knife under control at all times and cut away from your body.

As Old As Scouting

BSA uniforms have changed over the years as have tents, stoves, packs, and many other aspects of Scouting. But not pocketknives. The basic design of today's knives is almost identical to knives displayed in the 1911 Boy Scout Handbook. Its time-tested reliability will serve you for many years to come.

Knives Recommended by Committee on Equipment of Boy Scouts of America

Ask your hardware dealer for these knives

Price 50c

Made to cut and stay sharp



Two Blades, Ebony Handle, "Easy Opener," Brass Lined, and German Silver Bolsters

Made to cut and stay sharp

Stag Handle, Large Blade, Screwdriver, Leather Punch, Can Opener, Brass Lining, German Silver Bolsters

Price \$1.00



New York Knife Co. 225 Fifth Ave., New York Works . . . Walden, N. Y.

From Simple to Complex

The family of BSA knives means you'll find the one that's perfect for your needs. Perhaps you prefer the classic simplicity of a one-blade knife with no other features. Or, you might enjoy the multi-function convenience of a utility knife with extra tools folded into one.



Venturing Lockback Knife



Woodbadge Huntsman Knife

You can show your pride for Scouting's highest rank with a special Eagle Scout Knife.



Two Can Opener Designs

Can openers on pocketknives come in two designs - those that cut while going forward and those that cut while traveling backwards. Go the right direction and you'll have that can open in no time.



Backward-cutting Can Opener



Forward-cutting Can Opener

Notice which edge of the can opener blade on your knife is sharpened. If it is on the *inside* (facing the hook that goes under the rim of a can), you'll want to draw the tool *backward* along the can's rim as you lever the knife up and down. If the sharp edge is on the *outside* of the can opener (facing away from the hook), move the blade *forward* while opening a can.

Pocketknife Care

A sharp knife is safer and easier to use than a dull one. Keep cutting blades in top shape with a

sharpening stone. Some are made to be used dry, others with a few drops of oil or a little water.

Hold the knife blade against the stone at a 30-degree angle with the back of the blade lifted about a third of the way toward vertical. Move the blade as if slicing off a layer of the stone and repeat. Do the same with the other side of the blade, alternating until the knife has a keen edge.

In addition to its value as a tool at home and in camp, a pocketknife opens a world of enjoyment for wood carvers. Neckerchief slides, plaques, animals, Pinewood Derby cars, and a host of other projects can all take shape with the careful motions of a knife against wood.



Wood Carving Merit Badge

Qualified Use

Cub Scouts who have earned the Whittling Chip card can carry a pocketknife at Scout functions. Totin' Chip certifies that Boy Scouts are trained in the care and correct use of knives.



Whittling Chip Requirements

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

1. I will treat my pocketknife with the respect due a useful tool.
2. I will always close my pocketknife and put it away when not in use.
3. I will not use my pocketknife when it might injure someone near me.
4. I promise never to throw my pocketknife for any reason.

5. I will use my pocketknife in a safe manner at all times.



Totin' Chip Requirements

The Scout must show his Scout leader, or someone designated by his leader, that he understands his responsibility to do the following:

1. Read and understand woods tools use and safety rules from the Boy Scout Handbook.
2. Demonstrate proper handling, care, and use of the pocket knife, ax, and saw.
3. Use knife, ax, and saw as tools, not playthings.
4. Respect all safety rules to protect others.
5. Respect property. Cut living and dead trees only with permission and with good reason.

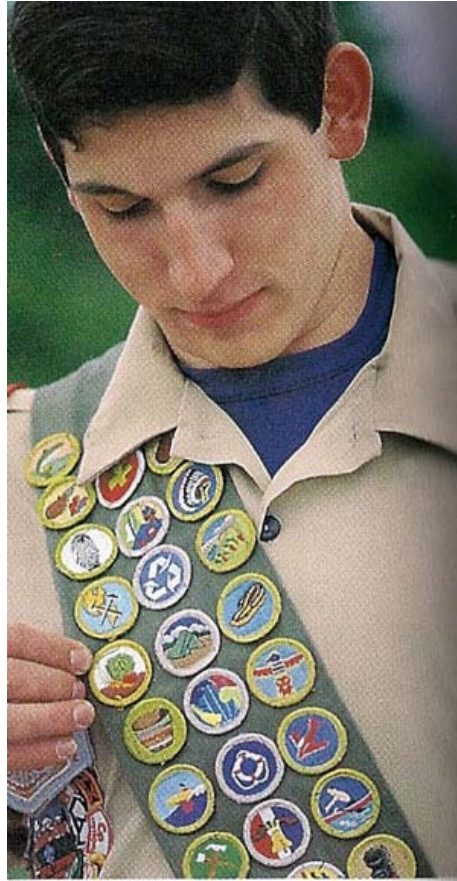
*****An Important Reminder*****

School regulations, airport security, and the policies of other public and private areas may prohibit carrying knives. Know the rules and stick with them.

For more information, consult Chapter 12, "Tools" of the *The Boy Scout Handbook, Twelfth Edition*.

The Merit Badge

Merit badges are terrific opportunities for Scouts to learn skills and explore a great range of subjects. Many adults recognize merit badges as introductions to lifelong hobbies and even full-time careers.



Today there are more than 120 merit badges, ranging from American Business to Woodwork. Some of those badges—Camping, Hiking, Lifesaving, and Cooking, to name a few—have been around since Scouting began.

Other merit badges were discontinued as the needs of Scouting changed. *Signaling* required mastery in sending messages by Morse Code and with semaphore flags. *Beekeeping* asked boys to manage hives of honeybees.



Key requirements of outdated merit badges are sometimes combined to create new awards. In 1975, for example, Animal Science absorbed the best of merit badges for *Beef Production*, *Dairying*, *Hog Production*, *Poultry Farming*, and *Sheep Farming*.

The look of merit badges has changed over the decades, too. A square of cloth with the round emblem embroidered on it has given way to full-color badges with a rainbow of backgrounds.

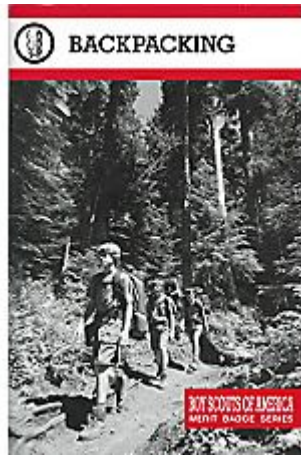


1911 Surveying Merit Badge

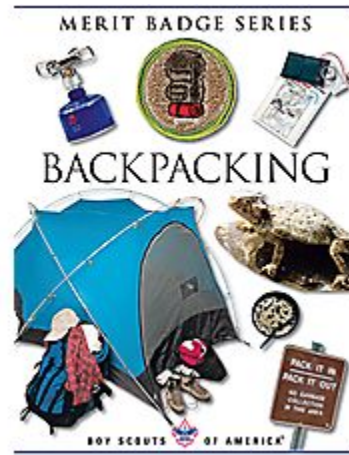


2009 Climbing Merit Badge

Each merit badge has a pamphlet containing the requirements and plenty of information for Scouts and their merit badge counselors to move forward. Color covers and photographs throughout today's pamphlets have replaced the black-and-white pamphlets that were familiar to generations of Scouts.



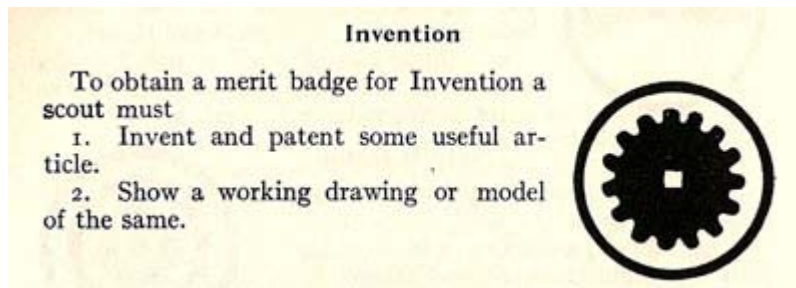
Then



Now

The First Aid merit badge has been earned by every Eagle Scout in the last century, placing it among the most popular of all the badges.

And one of the rarest? Some might say the Invention merit badge. Here's how it appeared in the first edition of the Boy Scout Handbook:



Inventing something worthy of a patent would be a steep challenge even for an adult. Yet ten Scouts did earn the award before it was discontinued in 1915. Many of today's merit badges are sure to be around well into Scouting's second century. Others will surely disappear.

For more information about Merit Badges, Visit Scouting.org.