



Vol. 2, No. 1

## 100 YEARS!

This year, Boy Scouts of America celebrates its centennial history. Much has changed over the last century. Uniforms are different. Leaky canvas tents are things of the past.

But some Scouting favorites are exactly as they were a hundred years ago. Here's a look at a few pieces of the BSA's past that are as popular today as when Scouting began. Perhaps they'll still be around a century from now as Scouts prepare to celebrate the BSA's 200th anniversary.



## HIKING STAFFS

While building the foundations of the worldwide Boy Scout movement, Robert Baden-Powell used pen and ink to draw sketches of Scouting's earliest members. Many are shown with hiking sticks. The first edition of the handbook for the Boy Scouts of America also featured Scouts with staves.



**Baden-Powell Sketch**



**1911 BSA Handbook Sketch**

Scouts today still find that hiking sticks can help set the rhythm of a hike. A staff is good for poking around in rocks and beneath the leaves of underbrush. Use them as poles to pitch a tent or rainfly. Practice pioneering skills by lashing together several staves to make something useful.



Some Scouts carve notches on their staves to keep track of nights they've spent camping, or times their hikes have covered five miles or more. [Scoutstuff.org](http://Scoutstuff.org) will help celebrate other achievements

with staff shields you can attach to your hiking staff.



Perhaps your hiking staff will have a single shield to celebrate a special event. Or you might display shields to commemorate all your rank achievements, mountain summits, and other milestones along the Scouting trail.



First Class  
Staff Shield



Venturing Staff Shield



Mt. St. Helens WA  
Summiteer Shield

### The Future of Hiking Sticks?

Hiking sticks aren't going out of style anytime soon, though many backpackers find that trekking poles

are just what they need. Like ski poles, they offer stability, improve balance, and can relieve some of the impact on your ankles and knees as you are striding along. When they aren't needed, many models of trekking poles telescope down to a size short enough for strapping onto your pack.



## **POCKETKNIVES**

If ever a tool was the emblem of Scouting, it's the pocketknife. Carried by millions of Scouts, good pocketknives will cut, whittle, slice, open cans, drive screws, bore holes, and take care of a thousand other tasks.



**Boy Scout Knife**

### **The Future of Pocketknives?**

There's no end to what applications might be added to a pocketknife. Today there are models with built-in flashlights, compasses, and even USB drives for backing up computer files. The new BSA Centennial knife features a 3-D Scouting hologram.



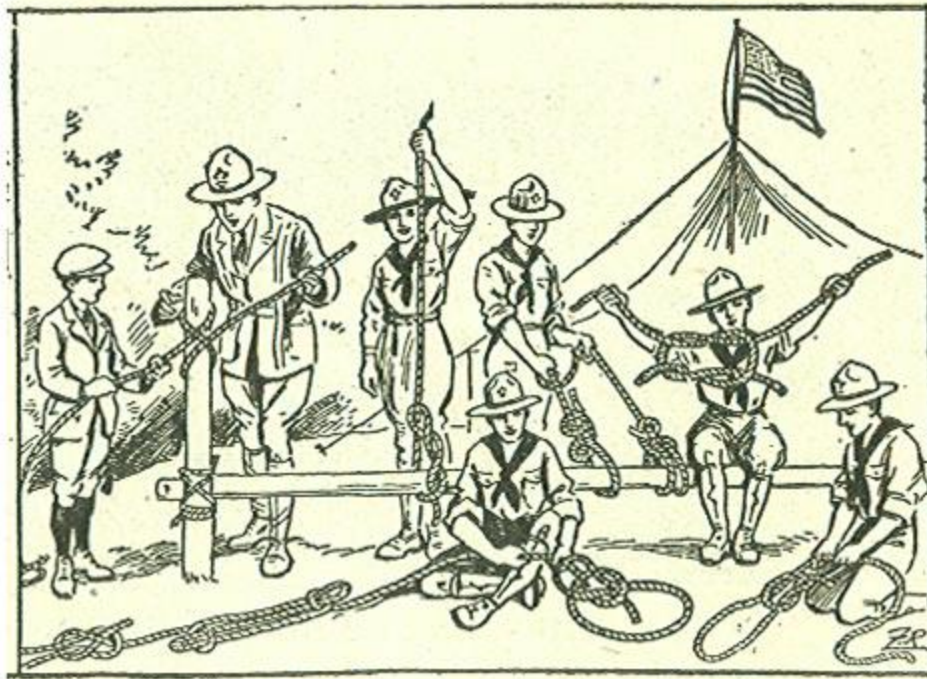
**Swiss Army Huntsman Knife**



**100th Anniversary Knife**

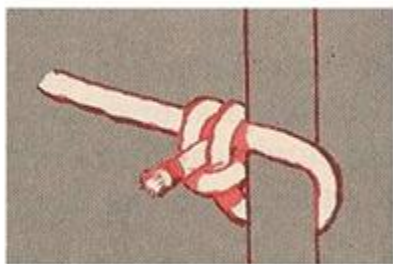
## **KNOTS**



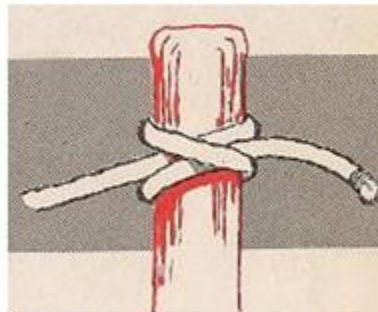


Tying knots is a skill as old as any in Scouting. Every Boy Scout learns the Joining Knot (square knot). Add five more knots on the way to First Class and you'll know how to use rope, string, and cord for dozens of jobs around home and on the trail.

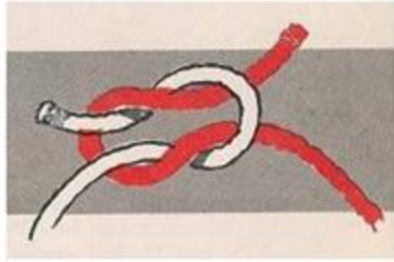
Can you identify the following knots? (Find the [answers](#) at the end of this edition.)



a.



d.



b.



e.



c.



f.

Practice makes knot tying perfect. Carry a foot-long piece of cord in your pocket. When you're waiting in line, sitting on a bus, or have other free time, pull out the cord and tie all the knots you know. See if you can tie them with your eyes, closed, too. When they come naturally to your fingers, you'll have the knots you need for a thousand different uses.

**Knots? No Sweat!**



The Forty Knots Bandana is a great reminder of the best of the knots. Check it out at [Scoutstuff.org](http://Scoutstuff.org).

## TYING IT ALL TOGETHER

Knots, knives, and hiking sticks are tools Scouts have always used. The most important tools of Scouting, though, are the Scout Oath and Law. They are unchanged since the first day of the BSA, and will be the same a century from now. Here's what "The Promise of Scouting" says about them:

***SCOUTING promises you experiences and duties that will help you mature into a strong, wise adult. The Scout Oath and the Scout Law can guide you while you are a Scout and throughout your life. (Boy Scout Handbook, 1998. Page 1)***

## Answers to the Knot Identification Quiz

a. Two Half Hitches, b. Square Knot, c. Timber Hitch, d. Clove Hitch, e. Taut-line Hitch, f. Bowline Knot.

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