

Safety Activity Checkpoint

Pocket Knife and Jackknife



Council Approval: Not required

Activity Permitted For: B J C S A

Not Permitted For: * Daisies

*Daisies can learn basic knife safety with cardboard/wood

About Pocket Knives/Jackknives

An important and versatile tool for camping, the pocket knife/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:

Knife Depot: Teaching Kids about Knife Safety <https://knife-depot.com/pages/teaching-kids-about-knife-safety>

Gear Junkie: Kids and Knives <https://gearjunkie.com/teaching-kids-knife-safety-outdoors>

Making Activities Accessible

In order to make your activity accessible to girls of all abilities, it's important to communicate with all girl attendees and their caregivers to learn about and accommodate their varied support needs. For resources and information on accessible sport and adventure activities, visit [Move United](#).

Equity

In addition to physical and social-emotional disabilities, consider the history, culture, and past experiences of the girls in your troop that could affect a girl's ability to equally participate in an activity. Work with girls and families to understand how an activity is perceived. Ensure that all girls and their families feel comfortable that they have access to whatever is needed to fully participate, such as the proper equipment, prior experiences, and skills needed to enjoy the activity.

Safety Activity Checkpoints

Standard Safety Guidelines. Refer to the "Standard Safety Guidelines" in the [Introduction to Safety Activity Checkpoints](#) which apply to all Girl Scout gatherings and activities. When the adult-to-girl ratio, or other safety parameters, are stricter for a specific activity than in the Standard Safety Guidelines, always follow the stricter parameters in the activity chapter.

COVID-19 Guidelines. Review the "Coronavirus Safety in Girl Scouts" section in the [Introduction to Safety Activity Checkpoints](#) under the "Standard Safety Guidelines" section and be certain to consult with [GSNorCal's specific COVID-19 guidance](#). When applicable, always call ahead to the vendor, property or facility involved to check for their COVID-19 safety requirements as you prepare to take girls for this activity.

Emergency Action Plan (EAP). Review and document your Emergency Action Plan (EAP) ahead of time before taking girls out for this activity. Think through scenarios of what can go wrong, such as, an accident, physical injury to a girl, missing girl, or sudden illness.

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 a safe direction
- Learn about additional emergency and safety procedures

Prepare for emergencies. Ensure the presence of a first-aid kit and a first-aider with a current certificate in First Aid, including Adult and Child CPR or CPR/AED, who is prepared to handle cases of injury from falls, especially abrasions. If any part of the activity is located 30 minutes or more from emergency medical services, ensure the presence of a first-aider with Wilderness First Aid. Learn more on how to become a Troop First-Aider by logging into your [MyGS Account- gsLearn](#). See Volunteer Essentials for information about first-aid standards and training. [[SAFETYWISE: First Aid & First Aiders](#)]

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.

Pocket Knife Safety / Jackknife Safety Pledge

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.

Girl Scout Signature - Date

Responsible Adult Signature – Date