

# **Cub Scout Adventure In a Box**



## **October Adventure**

### **Bear Claws**



**THREE FIRES COUNCIL**  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

## INTRODUCTION

*Dear parents/leaders,*

*Be sure to read this section (below) to or with your scouts to introduce this month's adventure and what you will be learning and doing.*

Welcome scouts to the October Adventure In a Box! This month we are exploring the world of Knives and Safety!

### RATIONALE FOR ADVENTURE

Most Cub Scouts are very excited about the opportunity to own and carry a pocketknife. In some families a pocketknife may be a common tool to carry. In other cases, this might be the first time the Cub Scouts and their families are learning about **knife safety**. It is important that each Scout understands a pocket-knife is a tool and **not a toy**, and how to responsibly handle and use the pocketknife when they are around others.

### TAKEAWAYS FOR CUB SCOUTS

- Understanding that carrying and using a pocket-knife at approved Scouting activities is an **honor** to be given to those Scouts who demonstrate they are mature enough to live up to the responsibility that goes along with this tool
- Learning the different types of pocket-knives and the appropriate times to use them
- Learning and following **safety** rules
- A Scout is trustworthy, obedient.



THREE FIRES COUNCIL  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

## ADVENTURE REQUIREMENTS

Dear parents/leaders,

Below is a list of the requirements your scout(s) will need to complete in order to earn the belt loop. Some requirements will have an activity they will need to do, and some will be an outing or experience they will need to have. Detailed instructions for the activities and guidance for the outing are included later in this guide.

Complete the following Requirements.

1. Learn about three common designs of pocketknives.
2. Learn **knife safety** and earn your Whittling Chip.\*
3. Do **ONE** of the following:
  - A. Using a pocket-knife, carve two items.

**or**

  - B. With a pocket-knife, safely perform each of these tasks:
    - (1) Demonstrate how to cut a piece of rope, twine, or fishing line.
    - (2) Open a sealed box without damaging the contents.
    - (3) Open a can with the can opener tool on a pocket-knife.
    - (4) Remove and replace the screws on an object with the screwdriver tool on a pocket-knife.
    - (5) Open a letter.

**\*One of the items carved for Bear Claws requirement 3 may be used to fulfill Whittling Chip requirement 2.**

### Tips from an Akela!



Check to see if there are any restrictions about using a pocket-knife at your meeting location. With **help** from parents or other leaders in the pack, identify alternate meeting locations to meet these requirements. You may also find a local **troop** that is able to assist you with meeting locations and obtaining meeting supplies. If desired, it is an option to invite a knife collector to assist you with the presentation of the material for Meeting 1. It might also be helpful to invite a few extra parents for the hands-on knife sharpening portion.



**THREE FIRES COUNCIL**  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

## MATERIALS LIST

*Dear parents/leaders,*

*The following supplies will be needed to complete the activities in this kit. Most of the items will be included in the kit. Any items marked with an \* are items that you may find around the house and are not included in the kit.*

- Packing List Handout
- Card-stock (3 colors)
- Brads (3)
- Pen\*
- Plastic kitchen knife\*
- Ivory soap bar
- Pocketknife\*
- Small sharpening stone
- Old towel/cloth\*
- First Aid Kit\*

## ACTIVITES

### **Activity 1: Learn Three Common Designs of Pocket-knives (Requirement 1)**

- Present the three common pocket-knives that are referenced in the Bear Handbook. (see handout)
- Review the **knife safety rules**—be certain there is complete understanding about why each rule is in place. This is also a good time to reinforce the two Scout Law points of being trustworthy and obedient.
- Discuss how well the scout did on the Knife Know-How Quiz. (see handout)  
Help them reflect on any new information that was learned after reviewing the knife safety rules.



**THREE FIRES COUNCIL**  
**BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**

### **Activity 2: Knife Sharpening and Safety (Requirement 2)**

- Following the **knife safety rules**, demonstrate the proper way to sharpen a knife
- Have parents or other adults assist Scouts to ensure safety and comprehension.

### **Activity 3: Carving (Requirements 2 and 3A)**

NOTE: The members of your den may need to practice with an additional bar of soap prior to beginning their project.

- Work on the soap carving using the steps in the Bear Handbook. Once this is complete, they may begin their second carving using a small block of wood.



#### **CARVING TIPS AND IDEAS**

**Patterns:** A few simple patterns and more can be found in the Bear Handbook. Children's coloring books provide another good source for patterns. It's important to use simple line drawings that can be easily transferred to the bar of soap.

#### **Instructions for Learning to Carve Using Soap**

1. **The Tools.** You will need the following: a large cake of white soap (the shape and texture of Ivory® Soap is most commonly used), a paring knife, one or two orangewood "manicure" sticks, and a pencil and tracing paper for sketching (or preprinted patterns).
2. **Preparing the Soap.** If possible, unwrap the soap and allow it to dry for a day or two before you start carving. Cut away the raised edges, and scrape off the lettering. This will create a flat surface for carving. Carving on a tray will keep the area clean and make it easy to collect the chips.
3. **Your Idea.** The subject is often suggested by the shape and quality of the soap. Don't be too ambitious at first. Choose a simple design with a solid, basic shape, without too many delicate undercuts or projections.
4. **From Idea to Soap.** If you have a clear mental picture of your idea, you may carve directly in the soap; or you may use the orangewood sticks to outline a rough sketch of the form you wish to carve on all surfaces. A beginner may wish to sketch the idea first on tracing paper and then transfer it to the soap.
5. **First Rough Cuts.** Regardless of the way you mark the rough outline on the surface of the soap, the first carving step is to make the first rough cuts. This step removes the greater part of the soap that will not be used to carve the design. Place the soap on a table or tray and, holding it with the left hand, start cutting at the upper right-hand corner (reverse this instruction if you are left-handed). Leave about a 1/4-inch margin outside the outline or penciled sketch. You should cut



**THREE FIRES COUNCIL**  
**BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**

clear through the cake, removing excess soap all the way around. After making these first cuts, you will probably find it more comfortable to carve along your outline, using the knife as if peeling a potato. Again, the cuts should be 1/8- to 1/4-inch away from guidelines to allow for finer work later. Caution: While making rough cuts, you should cut away in small pieces or slices. Soap often breaks apart if cut in big chunks, which could spoil the whole design. It's best to cut too little rather than too much, because you cannot put back a piece once it is removed.

6. **Shaping the Model.** Round out the design by cutting around the corners. As you work, keep turning the soap, always keeping the shape of the piece in mind. You should watch the high points (those that jut out farthest from the surface) and low points (those farthest in), carving gradually from the high points toward the deepest cuts. It may help in some spots to use the tip of the knife. Keep checking the whole form as you carve, and do not try to finish any one part in detail before you are finished shaping the soap.

7. **Polishing.** Allow the soap to dry for a day or two. Then rub it with a soft paper napkin, being careful not to break off corners or projections. Finally, rub it gently with your palm or fingertips.

8. **Details.** When the piece is about finished and all planes and forms are shaped, you can smooth rough edges with the edge of the knife. Mark in details like eyes or ears, etc., with the knife tip or with your orangewood stick.

## **WHITTLING CHIP (checklist)**

1. Know the Safety Rules for handling a knife
2. Show that you know how to take care of and use a pocket-knife
3. Make a carving with a pocket-knife.
4. Read and Understand and Promise to abide by the "Knives Are Not Toys" guidelines
5. Read, Understand, and Promise to abide by the "Pocket-knife Pledge"



**THREE FIRES COUNCIL**  
**BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**

## WRAPPING IT UP

Congratulations! If you have completed all of the activities and finished all the requirements, you are all done working on this adventure! For scouts that do this on their own or with their family, they can share about the adventure with their den at a future meeting. If your den is not able to meet in person, consider scheduling a virtual meeting and giving each scout a chance for show and tell.

## AFTER YOU HAVE COMPLETED YOUR ADVENTURE

*Once you have completed your adventure present your Scout with the Adventure Belt Loop. Also make sure to mark off the requirements in ScoutBook. Once you do this your Den Leader will be notified of your Scouts achievement. Den Leader or Advancements Coordinator know! They will mark the requirements complete and prepare the appropriate recognition device for awarding.*



**THREE FIRES COUNCIL**  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA