



Objective: The information contained in this document is designed to highlight examples of how knives can be used for outdoor survival skills.

These activities are not considered mandatory elements for earning the knife permit, but should be referenced when the user has gained familiarity with all of the aspects of safe knife use.

USING A KNIFE FOR OUTDOOR SURVIVAL SKILLS

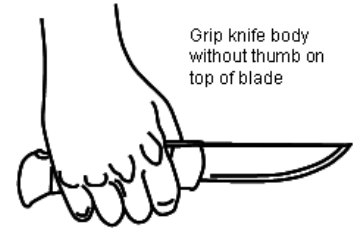
Your pocket knife has plenty of other uses other than whittling. Your knife is a valuable tool for cutting tree branches, cutting rope and shaping wood for making tools.

For activities involving outdoor skills, a buck knife is the better tool as the blade tends to be thicker, wider and at times longer. For outdoor skills all illustrations will show a buck knife and the hand position.

CUTTING TREES

An axe/hatchet or a saw are the preferred tools for cutting trees or tree limbs. In the event that you have no other tool than a knife, the following guidelines can be used.

- Any size of tree can be cut with a knife; it will simply be a factor of the time that it takes. Small trees such as saplings or thin tree limbs up to an inch in thickness can be cut through with a knife. Thicker trees can be cut with the application of bending force to snap through the wood where the cut has taken place.
- The knife is firmly gripped by the hand with all fingers wrapped around the body - pressing your thumb on the back of the cutting edge is not effective for larger cutting actions
- A rock or hammer may also be used to help apply cutting pressure



Grip knife body without thumb on top of blade

How to cut a tree with a knife	
<p>Bend tree over with one hand, or use a helper</p> <p>Tree 1 to 3 inches in width</p>	<p>Make a vertical cut into tree.</p> <p>Keep tree pushed over in order to help accelerate the cut</p> <p>Rock knife up and down</p>
<p>Start cut through the tree and then apply force to the cut by gently hitting the back of the knife blade with a rock or a hammer</p> <p>Push knife downwards using body weight</p> <p>Strike back of knife blade with a rock or a hammer to increase the cut</p>	<p>At cut progress, press the tree up and down to help break the limb to accelerate the cut</p> <p>Tree may fracture at this point and require further trimming</p>
<p>Bend the tree over and then make the cut in a position where the tree will snap away from the body</p> <p>Tree will snap away from the body when the cut is made</p>	

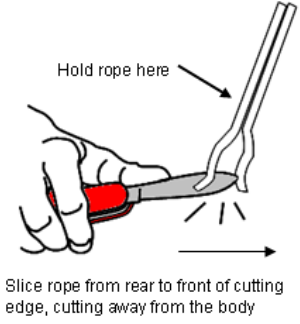
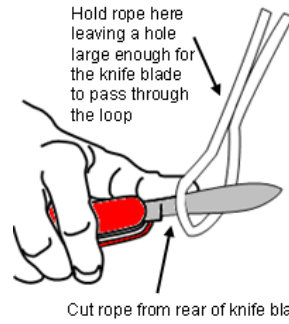
Knife Permit: Outdoor Knife Skills



CUTTING ROPE WITH A KNIFE

Middle the rope where you want to cut it. Firmly grasp the rope in one hand and position the knife such that rear of the blade is against the rope. Push the blade against the rope and cut the rope in a slicing motion such that the blade cuts from the rear to the tip in one smooth motion. The key element in cutting rope is to slice the rope without fraying the rope.

Do not push too hard otherwise the knife will slip outwards when the rope is cut through.



You can cut several strands of rope together however this will take greater strength and may increase the number of slices you need to make - which may end up fraying the rope.

CUTTING NOTCHES ON STICKS FOR COOKING POT HANDLE

A good practical example of knife work in the outdoors is the cutting of a simple notch in a pole for suspending a pot over a fire.

<p>Cut two opposite 45 degree cuts. The cuts must be deeper than the thickness of the pot handle.</p>	<p>Cut 45 deg angle in wood pole</p> <p>Cut alternate 45 deg angle in wood pole</p>
<p>Examine the two cuts from top and side and you will see that it makes the following shape Ensure that there is no crack at the top of the Star notch</p>	<p>This produces two cuts in a star like image</p> <p>This is the star cut on the wood pole viewed from the top</p> <p>Make sure that there are no cracks at this point</p> <p>This is the cut viewed from the side. There must not be any cracks</p>
<p>This is an image of what you can achieve with this particular outdoor skill</p>	
<p>The handle of a pot can fit into the groove that it cut in the pole. This allows the pot to be suspended over a fire</p>	

Above diagram: “the handle of a pot can fit into the groove that is cut “