

KNIFE ADVICE AND GOOD PRACTICE

A knife is a tool and should be treated as such ...

Bivouac and Knives

Every person on the activity, participants and leaders alike, will need to use a knife sometime during the weekend. We know the subject of young people having access to knives is an emotive one. This information sheet hopefully addresses common concerns and all people on the activity are required to work within these guidelines.

What type of Knife?



A good example is the Swiss Army style penknife manufactured by Victorinox. The quality of steel, the size of the blade and other tools that are part of this penknife make it ideal.

We recommend the “*Camper*” penknife model. It contains 13 tools, including two blades, a wood saw, a reamer, a punch and a key ring to keep it safe. These features make it not only ideal for this activity, for countless Scouting activities, for many years to come ...

(A separate request must be made to the responsible Leader in Charge before bringing a knife on any other Scouting activity).

Purchasing a suitable Knife

As it is illegal to sell a knife of any kind to a person under the age of 18, we shall make the purchase of a Victorinox “*Camper*” penknife available to your parents / guardians during the activities preparation and briefing days. Prices will be confirmed nearer the time.

Knife Guidelines

- When travelling on the coach, the knife must be packed in the middle your rucksack.
- During the event, the knife must be kept in a pouch, on a belt, attached to a belt loop by a piece of cord.
- Gloves should be worn when using any knife.
- Immediately after use, fold away the blade / tool, storing the knife back in your pouch.
- Knives **must not** be used after dark.

Correct Use

- Your knife is an essential survival tool. Bivouac Leaders will train you on how to clean, maintain and best use the knife for this purpose.
- Only use a knife for the purpose for which it was designed.
- Keep your knife well maintained and sharp - dull blades cause more accidents because they are harder to work with.

Incorrect Use

- Knives are not weapons - any knife used in an improper manner will be confiscated.
- You will have failed the award. You will be sent home / collected from the activity.

Further Information?

- Web search “[Victorinox Scouting Knife Safety Factsheet](#)”
- Make contact by replying to any e-mail from the Bivouac Activity Organising Team