

AXEMANSHIP

Pathfinder Level

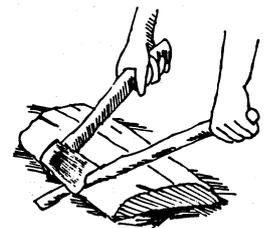
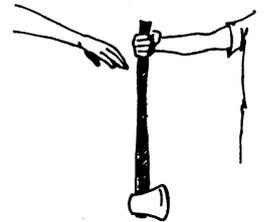
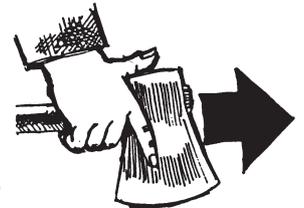
Purpose

To teach you proper care in handling a sheath knife, a hatchet and an axe. You must pass the following requirements with your Counsellor to earn your **CARRYING RIGHTS**. You will not be permitted to carry a sheath knife, hatchet or axe until you have done so...

Exploring

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CARRYING RIGHTS

- a. Carrying an unsheathed hatchet or axe.
The blade should be pointed downward with the handle parallel to the ground. The hand should grip the handle so that the thumb is resting on the 'butt' and the first finger is resting on the face, pointing toward the ground. If the person stumbles and falls, the blade will then be pushed outwards and away from the body.
- b. Passing and receiving an unsheathed hatchet or axe.
It should be upside down with the blade facing sideways and away from both the passer and the receiver. The person passing an axe should grip at the top of the handle so the person receiving can grip below. Don't let go until the person receiving has a firm grip.
- c. Sharpening a hatchet or axe.
Use a flat mill file. Place the head against a log or a peg with the edge up. Hold it firmly in position with pegs. Push the file down over the edge (never file both ways). When one side is filed, turn the axe over and do the other side. Finish off with a sharpening stone. Rub it along the edge in a smooth circular motion.
- d. Sharpening a knife.
Use a sharpening stone. Rub it along the edge of the blade in a smooth circular motion.
- e. Using a 'chopping block'
When splitting wood with a chopping block, place the spot where you want to cut firmly against the block. To **chop**, leave the stick on the block and cut at an angle. To **split**, place the blade against the stick. Lift the hatchet and stick together, bring them down together. Kindling should be about pencil thin and fairly short.
Note: keep your feet away from the 'chopping block'.
- f. Storing your knife, hatchet and axe when not in use.
 - Pocket knife: keep the blade closed.
 - Sheath knife: keep in the sheath.
 - Hatchet or axe: keep in a sheath if you have one. If not, place the blade between two logs or sunk firmly into a 'chopping block'.
- g. There should be **No-one** within three metres of the person chopping wood.



1. Demonstrate to your Counsellor that you know how to

- Carry an unsheathed hatchet or axe.
- Pass and receive an unsheathed hatchet or axe.
- Sharpen a hatchet or axe.
- Sharpen a knife.
- Use a 'chopping block'.
- Chop kindling and fuel to proper length.
- Properly split kindling and fuel.
- Store your knife, hatchet and axe when not in use.
- Keep an area clear for cutting wood.
- Obey the **Woodsman's Code**.

WOODSMAN'S CODE

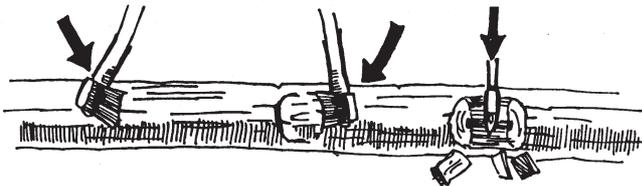
- I will use my axe and knife as tools, not playthings.
- I will keep them sharp and clean.
- I will practice to become skillful.
- I will rest when tired.
- I will obey all safety rules set by my Counsellor.
- I will respect the property of others.
- I will not harm living trees needlessly.

Doing

Complete two of the following projects.

One with an axe or hatchet, and one with a knife.

- a. With a **hatchet**, cut six tent pegs, which are square at the top and have a four-sided point. Place a notch near the top.



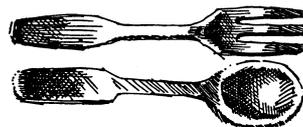
- b. With an **axe**, cut through a 15 cm log within a two-minute period.
(Cut with a series of three strokes repeated until log is cut. The first stroke should be at a right angle, the second at a left angle and the third should be straight down. This is the quickest way to cut through a log.)

- c. With a **knife**, make two 'fuzz-sticks' for quick fire building.



- d. With a **knife**, make one of the following.

- Two toasting forks.
- Two pot hooks.
- A fork and a spoon (whittled).



Reflection

Remember, **always** be careful when you use sharp tools. Look after your own safety as well as those around you. You now qualify for the **FIRE BUILDING** badge.

Ask your Counsellor to arrange for the presentation of your 'Axemanship' badge.

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