Knife Basics for Foxes: A Guide for Dads

Grace Troop TX-0139

Please note: Foxes do **NOT** carry knives at troop events.

This is about learning respect for knives and the basics, **always with a grown-up**.

The Woodsman achievement (Trail Life USA Woodsman Requirements, Doc 528), which lets a Trailman carry a knife at troop events, starts at **Mountain Lion (4th grade)**. At our troop it takes one parent's consent, then the Troopmaster or TML's approval.

1. The saying

"A knife is NOT a toy."

- Have your son say it back to you a few times.
- A knife is a **tool**. We only use it when it is needed.
- **Never** to show off. **Never** when angry.

2. How to hold a knife

- Hold the **handle**, never the blade.
- Keep your fingers **out of the way of the blade**.

Dad's choice: for practice, a closed knife or a plastic knife works well.

3. How knives are used

- A knife is a tool for jobs like cutting rope or carving.
- Always cut **away from your body**.
- Don't push too hard.
- Only use a knife with a **Trail Guide's or parent's permission**, with a grown-up close by.

4. Simple safety

- **Look around you** first. Make sure no one is close by.
- **Never** walk or run with an open knife. Stay still.
- A folding knife is **closed** before it is passed. When you are handed one, say **“Thank you, I have it.”**

Tip: If you find a knife, don’t touch it. Tell a grown-up.

5. Knives are a privilege

Knives are a privilege. When a Trailman earns his Woodsman, a leader can take his knife away if he isn’t safe, and he may have to earn it again.

6. Questions

Ask your son	Answer
1. What is a knife: a tool or a toy?	*A tool. A knife is NOT a toy.*
2. When do we use a knife?	*Only when it is needed, and only with a Trail Guide’s or parent’s permission. Never to show off or when angry.*
3. How do you hold a knife?	*By the handle. Keep your fingers out of the way of the blade.*
4. Which way do you cut?	*Away from your body.*
5. Can you walk or run with an open knife?	*No. Never.*
6. What do you say when someone hands you a knife?	*“Thank you, I have it.”*
7. What do you do if you find a knife?	*Don’t touch it. Tell a grown-up.*