

WEAVING THE BEAR'S WEB

KNIFE SAFETY

1. Ask for permission before using your knife.
2. Blood Bubble - area you can reach out with both arms outstretched and not touch another person (if another person is nearby, they ALSO need to be able to reach out with their arms and not touch you). In larger classes, we use a blood circle in addition to a blood bubble. This is so carving/whittling has a large area that is off limits to play and other activities.
3. Sheath your knife if someone inadvertently walks into your blood bubble, and inform them you are using a knife there.
4. Sheath your knife anytime you are not using it.
5. If you go get another item to carve/whittle, sheath your knife, put it on your belt, in your pack, or hand to an instructor - NEVER leave your knife on the ground – you don't want to lose your tools and don't want some one to get hurt tripping on your knife.
6. Sticking your knife in the ground without a sheath can result in dulling the blade. Sticking the knife in the ground with or without a sheath can result in an injury.
7. A knife is a tool, we don't use it to threaten, even if you are joking (this will result in immediate loss of knife privileges)
8. Carve/whittle AWAY from your body.
9. Check to make sure that if you were to remove the stick, the knife will not hit your body.
10. "Triangle of death" (area near groin to knees where artery is located) – this can be a particularly dangerous area to cut yourself (make sure your blade is away from your body)
11. If you don't know how to do something, or it's very difficult, or it seems like the only way to achieve your goal is to use a knife unsafely - ASK FOR HELP.
12. Knives used for whittling/carving are not throwing knives; use tools appropriately.
13. STAY AWARE when using a knife.
14. Do not carve/whittle live wood without permission (from the instructor and Tree), prayer, and gratitude.
15. Tell an instructor immediately if you cut yourself.
16. Hand the knife in the sheath, handle side out, to the person who is receiving while looking into their eyes. The receiver looks into the giver's eyes and says thank you, indicating they are holding the knife securely.
17. You can bring your own knife ONLY when you pass knife safety, have demonstrated responsible knife use, and demonstrate sufficient skill with the blunt knives.