

# Teaching Plan & Student Guide for Totin' Chip

**Document Purpose:** This plan was developed as a teaching guide for boy leaders who are teaching to Totin' Chip class to a group of boys. It has 4 parts that you need to teach in order for the students/boys to get their Totin' chip. Remember, boys learn well with hands-on instruction and not boring lectures. Build your presentation so that it is visual and has plenty of tools to pass around.

The introduction section of this document (below) can be used as speaker notes for you when you do your presentation. You read the parts that say **speaker**. But remember...be animated....don't just read the paper without looking at and engaging the audience. Practice your presentation ahead of time and know the materials. An unprepared speaker who does not know his materials will lose his audiences attention within a minute!

**Materials List:** work gloves (3 pairs), eye protection glasses (3 pairs), 50ft roll of orange marking tape, stakes for corners of axe yard, small tarp (to keep tools on), bucket of saws/axes from troop supplies, example of axe with a sheath, rope, an example of a small hatchet with a sheath, whetstones (3 for knife sharpening), household oil, sharpening files (2-3 for axes), and a pocket knife. Also a bundle of logs (to practice splitting), a large chopping log to chop on, a large branch (to demonstrate limbing on), 30 degree wood blocks that can be used to demonstrate sharpening angle. You might also have examples of illegal tools like a knife that doesn't fold or and axe that is in poor condition.

You'll also need a number of totin chip cards, copies of the test (see below), and the student guide (see below).

## Introduction

**Speaker:** Welcome boys to my Totin' Chip class! My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and today I'll be instructing you on how to handle a knife, ax, saw. I know some of you may already handle these items, but I'm going to show you the boy scout way – which is to do it in a safe and environmentally friendly way.

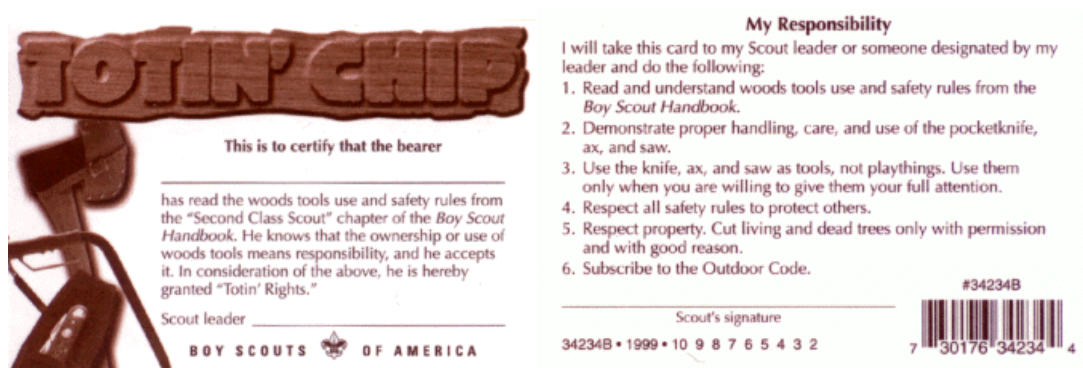
**Speaker:** The Totin' Chip *<hold one up>* is a card issued to a Scout authorizing him to use woods tools. It is like a license or permit that can be revoked if he fails to show proper responsibility. If you pay attention and take this seriously today, you'll earn this card at the end of my lessons when you take the written test! Then you'll have earned the privilege to carry a scout knife and use a saw and ax around camp!

**Speaker:** My Totin' Chip Course Covers:

- A discussion of the Outdoor Code
- Axes
- Saws
- Knives (includes kitchen knives)
- And concludes with a written test which you must pass to get your official card!

**Speaker: BSA Has set the following requirements for the Totin' Chip:**

1. Read and understand woods tools use and safety rules found in the BS Handbook
2. Demonstrate proper handling, care, and use of the Ax, Saw and Pocket Knife
3. Use the Ax, Saw, and knife as tools not playthings
4. Respect all safety rules to protect others
5. Respect property. Cut only dead and living trees with permission and good reason
6. Subscribe to the Outdoor Code



**Speaker:** Upon completion of the lesson, each scout should have obtained the knowledge to:

1. How to select, care for, sharpen, and use a pocket knife.
2. How to use and care for a camp saw.
3. How to care for, identify the part of, sharpen, and use an axe.
4. Will demonstrate the use of a pocket knife, camp saw, and axe.
5. Will demonstrate the sharpening of a knife and axe.
6. Safety expectations when using all camp tools.
7. Understand the outdoor code

**Speaker:** As I mentioned earlier, at the end of the course there is a written test. Once you pass it, I will sign it. At that point, you must arrange a time to see an adult leader and ask them to fill out a card with you and review the requirements!!!!

**Speaker:** Got it? Ok...let's get going...now for Part I, the outdoor code!

## Student Guide

(print out this part for each student – have each student read parts out loud)

### PART I: The Outdoor Code:

The Outdoor Code is a creed or what is called an oath to remind a Scout of the importance of caring for the environment. I will read it line-by-line and I'll ask each of you what it means. You can follow along in your scout handbook! It goes like this:

AS AN AMERICAN, I WILL DO MY BEST TO - BE CLEAN IN MY OUTDOOR MANNERS,

**What it means:** I will treat the outdoors as an inheritance from all the people that have come before me. I will take care of it for myself and others. I will keep my trash and garbage out of lakes, streams, fields, woods, and roadways.

BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE,

**What it means:** I will prevent wildfire. I promise I will build my fires only where they are appropriate. When I have finished using a fire, I will make sure it is cold out. I will leave a clean fire ring, or remove all evidence of my fire.

BE CONSIDERATE IN THE OUTDOORS,

**What it means:** I will treat public and private property with respect. I will use low-impact methods of hiking and camping.

AND BE CONSERVATION-MINDED.

**What it means:** I promise I will learn to practice good conservation of soil, waters, forest, minerals, grasslands, wildfires, and energy. I will urge others to do the same.

### PART II: Basic Wood Tool Safety and Definitions

The most important thing when using any tool is - Safety, Safety, Safety.

- **Blood Circle** - a method of safely moving the tool around you to determine if your work area is free of obstacle that could cause potential problems.
- **AX Yard** - an Ax Yard is a marked off area, possibly with rope, to form a safety barrier. The idea is no one except the person using the tool is inside, this keeps other from being accidentally hit and or hurt.
- **"Thank You"** - the magic words of working with tools. If you decide to gave a tool to someone, you will not let go of it until the other person say "Thank You" letting you know that – that person has it and will not drop on you or anyone else.

- **“Coming Through!!!”** - If you are working in an unsecured area such as a trail use "Coming Through" and "Go For It". "Coming Through" tells someone near by that you will be passing through his work space. "Go For It" tells you that person has acknowledged that you are their and has stopped working to let you safely pass through.

## **Part III: Before you begin.....make a Safe work area.**

Before we begin using any woods tools, we need a safe place to work. Knives, Saws, and Axes are very handy for our campouts, but they are TOOLS not play things. Having a safe work area with rules for running it keeps us all safe and all our fingers and toes attached to our bodies!

A safe work area consists of:

- An area which is free of brush and branches.
- An area which is at least 10 feet in diameter.
- An area which provides all the safety equipment necessary, gloves, eye protection, tool storage.

On long term camps or when lots of fire wood is required, we construct a safe area called an axe yard. To make one, you rope off an area large enough to provide a safe working area. Only enter the axe yard to saw or chop wood – not to fool around. Again apply all rules to the axe yard as you do to the safe working area.

Rules for the safe work area (or axe yard):

- Only the person operating the camp tools is allowed in the safety area or *Axe Yard*.
- When finished the safety area is cleaned of all wood chips, bark, and other debris.
- Make sure that all tools are properly stored when finished.
- Ask permission to enter the yard and OBEY the person in it if they tell you to wait.

Type of Gear to Use – Gloves, Eye Protection, long pants, and long sleeve shirts give you the best protection as well as a helmet. At a minimum, gloves and eye protection.

**Also: BSA Does not allow Scouts, Scout Leaders or anyone else at any Scouting function to carry or use a knife bigger then 4 inches and it must fold.**

## **Part IV: Pocket Knife**

### **A. Selecting a pocket knife.**

1. Should have a minimum of; 1 or 2 cutting blades, can opener, flat bladed screwdriver.
2. A locking devise for all cutting blades.
3. Should be made of a material which will not rust. i.e.; Stainless steel
4. More accessories are not usually good.

### **B. Care of the pocket knife**

1. Wash with soap and water, and rinse after using to cut food, make sure to dry.
2. Keep inside clean of dirt.
  - a. Open all blades and accessories.
  - b. Using a toothpick and a small patch of lightly oiled rag, clean the blade storage area.
  - c. Using a light oil, slightly oil all hinges.

### **C. Do's for pocket knives.**

1. Keep blades closed except for when using them.
2. Keep your fingers clear of the sharp edge as you open and close the blade.
3. Cut away from your body.
4. Close the blades before you pass the knife to someone else.
5. Keep the knife sharp and clean. A sharp blade is easier to control then a dull one.
6. Obey any school regulation that prohibits carrying knives on school property.

### **D. Don't for pocket knives.**

1. Don't carry any knife with the blade open
2. Don't throw a knife.
3. Don't cut toward yourself, or toward anyone else.
4. Don't strike a knife with any other tool or pry with the point of a cutting blade.

**Note:** The Boy Scouts of America does not allow the use of large sheath knives.

### **E. Sharpening of knives.**

1. Use a *whetstone* or *oilstone*.
2. Hold the blade at a 30 degree angle to the stone, 1/3 from vertical.
3. Using a circular motion move the blade around the stone using moderate pressure.
4. Wipe the blade clean with a cloth.
  - a. When looking straight onto the blade in sunlight or a bright light a dull blade will look shiny. A sharp blade will have no shine at all.

### **F. Demonstrations:**

1. Using a whetstone or oilstone, have the student demonstrate the proper method of sharpening at least one blade.
2. Using proper technique and safety, have the student demonstrate how to make a fuzzy stick, using his pocket knife.

## **Part V. Camp Saw**

**A. Camp saw is the proper tool for most outdoors wood cutting.**

**B. Types of saws.**

1. Folding saw has a blade that folds into the handle of the saw.
2. Bow saw has a metal frame that the blade is tightly suspended between.

**C. When cutting downed wood (firewood).**

1. Brace the piece of wood against a chopping block, sawhorse, or other solid support.
2. Use long, smooth strokes.
3. Let the weight of the saw pull the blade into the wood.

**D. When cutting standing wood (Tree trimming).**

1. Never cut from a live tree without the permission of the ranger, property owner, property manager, or scoutmaster.
2. First make an undercut on the bottom of the limb to be cut, then cut from the top. This will keep the saw from binding and bark stripping.
3. Cut close to the tree trunk.
4. When cutting saplings cut close to the ground.

**E. Do's for camp saws.**

1. Do keep the saw sheathed whenever it is not in use.
2. Do Carry a saw with the blade turned away from your body.
3. Do replace blades when they become dull. Sharp saws are easier to use and control.
4. Do use care when passing a saw to another person. Always turn the blade away from both persons.
5. Do Wear gloves and protective eyewear whenever using a camp saw.

**F. Don't for camp saws.**

1. Don't cut any trees, alive or dead with permission.
2. Don't allow the saw's blade to cut into the ground. Soil and rocks will quickly dull the teeth.
3. Don't leave a saw lying around camp.

**Note:** Always sheathe and put away the saw, gloves, and eye protection when finished.

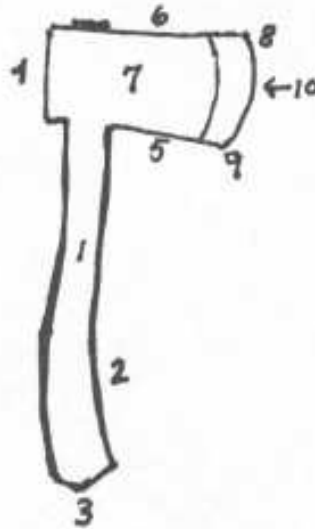
**G. Demonstrate the proper and safe way to cut firewood of at least 3 inch diameter.**

## Part VI. The Axe

**A. Axe Condition** - An axe must be in top condition. If the head is loose, handle is cracked, or the blade is dull, DON'T USE IT.

### B. Parts of the axe.

1. Handle
2. Belly
3. Knob
4. Butt
5. Back
6. Front
7. Face
8. Toe
9. Heel
10. Bit



### C. Swing of the axe

1. Wear gloves and protective eyewear whenever using an axe.
2. Securely hold the belly of the handle in one hand, (right handed people hold with the left hand).
3. With the other hand grasp the handle just under the head of the axe.
4. Position the axe about eye level.
5. Bring the axe down with a smooth motion allowing the upper hand to slide down the axe handle to meet the stationary hand which on the belly of the handle.
6. Allow the weight of the axe to do the cutting.

### D. Limbing.

1. Cutting branches off a log.
2. Stand on the opposite side of the log as the limb to be removed is.
3. Cut close to the log.
4. Keep the log between you and your cuts.

### E. Bucking (cutting through a log)

1. Secure the log you want to cut
2. Cut a "V" notch twice the width at the top as the log is thick.
3. Use proper swinging technique.
4. Keep you eye on the spot you wish to cut.

### **F. Splitting wood.**

1. Splitting a log lengthways.
2. Use a chopping block. Flat soft **wooden** surface.
3. Stand the log to be split on the chopping block.
4. Select an *age crack*.- An age crack is a natural split through the diameter of a log caused by the drying of the wood.
5. Using proper swinging technique bring the axe down striking the log at the age crack.
6. Remove the log from the axe, reposition on the chopping block, and use the swinging technique again.
7. Never swing the axe while the log is still attached to the blade.

### **G. Contact method for stick splitting.**

1. Used to split a small stick of wood.
2. Best to use a hand axe.
  - a. Place the bit of the axe against the end of the stick.
  - b. Bring the axe and stick down together against the chopping block.
  - c. Twist the axe to break the pieces of the stick apart.

### **H. Carrying of the axe.**

1. Always place the sheath on the axe before carrying.
2. Grasp the axe by the handle just under the head of the axe.
3. Carry the axe with the blade turned away from yourself.
4. Never carry an axe over your shoulder.

### **I. Passing the axe.**

1. Always place the sheath on the axe before passing it to another person.
2. Grasp the axe by the knob of the handle.
3. Turn the blade away from the two persons. To the outside.
4. "Thank you, I have it". The receiving person always uses the line, "Thank you, I have it" before the axe is released to him. This is an indication that he has total control of the camp tool.

### **J. Sharpening the axe.**

1. Use a 8 or 10 inch mill bastard file to sharpen the axe.
  2. Wear leather gloves to protect your hands and use a knuckle guard on the file.
  3. Place the axe head against a log of about 6 inches diameter. Use 2 pegs or tent stakes to secure it at the butt.
  4. Place the file at a 30 degree angle against the blade and push it into the bit.
  5. Sharpen with firm, even strokes.
  6. Lift the file from the bit when recovering from a stroke.
  7. Turn the axe around and sharpen the other side of the bit.
- TIP: When looking straight onto the bit in sunlight or a bright light a dull blade will look shiny. A sharp blade will have no shine at all.

### **K. Do's for axes.**



1. Do keep the axe sheathed whenever it is not in use.
2. Do Carry an axe by the handle just under the axe head, and with the blade turned away from your body.
3. Do keep your axe sharp. Sharp axes are easier to use and control.
4. Do use care when passing an axe to another person. Always turn the blade away from both persons.
5. Do Wear gloves and protective eyewear whenever using an axe.

**L. Don't for axes.**

1. Don't cut any trees, alive or dead with permission.
2. Don't allow the axe blade to cut into the ground. Soil and rocks will quickly dull the axe.
3. Don't leave an axe lying around camp.

**M. Demonstrations:**

1. Using a mill bastard file, have the student demonstrate the proper method of sharpening.
2. Using proper technique and safety, have the student demonstrate limbing, bucking, and splitting wood.
3. Using proper technique and safety, have the student demonstrate the proper carrying and passing of an axe.

## **PART VII. What happens if you do something wrong**

If someone is using the tool incorrectly or inappropriately, there are a few things you can do depending on the severity of the problem. Of course the first thing to do is stop it right there and then.

- What can you do to the individual:
- You may remove a corner on the Totin' Chip, for normal problems
- You may remove 1 to 4 corners depending on the severity of the problem
- Once the individual has lost all 4 corners that individual has lost the right to use any tools, until he has re-earned the Totin' Chip. Each unit has its own way of doing this, the most common being just retaking the course (this is the BSA recommend method)

## VIII. Written Testing

# Totin Chip Quiz

Scouts Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Patrol: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Score: \_\_\_\_\_%

Circle the correct Answer

1. T or F - A boy scout is allowed to carry of sheath knife (hunting knife) as long as it is always worn over the hip pocket
2. T or F - Always keep knives, hand axes, axes, and saws sheathed when not in use.
3. T or F - Never use your hand axe as a hammer.
4. T or F - A standard Boy Scout Hand axe has a ten pound steel head.
5. T or F - A 3/4 Axe is designed to be used with one hand and is Dangerous to swing with two hands.
6. T or F - Wooden or metal wedges can be used to keep the steel head tightly fastened to the wooden handle of an axe.
7. T or F - When removing limbs from a fallen tree with an axe or hand axe, always chop toward the top of the tree.
8. T or F Before chopping with a hand axe, make sure the handle has a light coating of oil on it to make it slippery.
9. T or F Always clear an area one axe length around a tree before felling it.
10. T or F When handing a pocket knife to someone else, always hold on to the handle and turn the open blade down.
11. T or F When your hand axe is dull, use a small file and file back and forth across the bit of the ax.
12. T or F On lookers should be at least two axe lengths away when felling a tree.
13. T or F A knife should be sharpened with a dry stone.
14. T or F When passing an axe the blade should be pointed away from both persons.
15. T or F When carrying an axe you should carry it by the knob of the handle.
16. T or F When passing a knife, axe, or saw the receiver should state, "Thank you, I have it".
17. T or F When at camp the proper storage for an axe is to place it's bit into a sturdy nearby log.
18. T or F To prevent cuts from a knife it is best not to sharpen it too well.
19. T or F Since a pocket knife is only for personal use it is not considered a camping tool.
20. T or F If possible it is best to split wood on a concrete pad or block.

21. T or F You need not worry about leaving an axe out in the rain if it has been properly cared for.
22. T or F A blade protector for a saw may be made out of a section of old garden hose.
23. T or F When splitting wood it is proper to use a 8 to 10 pound sledge hammer to drive your axe through the log.
24. T or F Protective eyewear should be worn when using an axe.
25. T or F A mushroom head is a sure indication that an axe has been abused and misused.
26. T or F If the handle of a 3/4 axe has a split in it, it is still considered safe to use.
27. T or F A double bladed axe is recognized by the Boy Scouts of America as a camp tool.
28. T or F Features on a pocket knife should include a locking blade.
29. T or F The quickest and safest way to cut through a 4 inch thick log is with a saw.
30. T or F If an axe handle become loose you should soak the head of the axe in salt water to tighten it up.
31. T or F When a Scout reaches the rank of First Class it is no longer necessary for him to carry a Totin Chip card since he has already demonstrated his knowledge of knife and axe through his First Class requirements.
32. T or F A whet stone should be lightly coated with a light weight oil before use.
33. T or F When sharpening a knife one should use a circular motion.
34. T or F To test the sharpness of a sheath knife one should attempt to shave a small section of their arm.

35. In illustration #2 which number refers to the BIT.
36. In illustration #2 which number refers to the FACE.
37. In illustration #2 which number refers to the HANDLE.
38. In illustration #2 which number refers to the BUTT.
39. In illustration #2 which number refers to the BELLY.
40. In illustration #2 which number refers to the KNOB

