

# Learning in the Leaves

## Sheath Knife Safety Card



### The Sheath Knife:

Use: Cutting string/rope and whittling

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handle

blade

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sheath

cutting edge

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### Care and Maintenance:

- Avoid using the blade for; battoning logs, as a pry bar, as a fire striker or for digging.
- Stainless steel blades need to be kept clean and sharpened every now and again.
- Carbon blades will need to be cleaned and oiled (with a light oil). If be stored for long periods these blades are best not left in leather sheaths.
- As a general rule, stainless steel will require a little more sharpening than that of carbon steel, and is usually best achieved with a whetstone. Don't let the knife go completely blunt as it will become harder to get a good edge back on the blade, but don't over sharpen or sharpen too frequently as this can make the knife too sharp and in turn the edge may become a little weaker.
- Ensure sheaves are kept clean and leather sheaves are maintained.

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### Use:

- When working with children ensure fixed blade knives are used. Folding blades present a chance of accident when folding the blade and have a weak point at the hinge making them more likely to break.
- When choosing knives for use with children, it's important to consider the size of handles, blades and the blade type. Knives with smaller handles and rounded blade ends maybe better for use with young children.
- As with most tools, the hand on the tool should not be gloved. The helper hand should have a cut resistant glove on.
- Children should initially be taught to use a knife in a sitting position. Children should ensure they are always cutting with arms over their legs and away from the body.
- Older children/ adults may progress to a standing position, however it's important to supervise to ensure the knife is still being used with the blade away from the body.

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## The Sheath Knife Tool Talk:

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You need to **PASS** your tool talk:

**P** = Parts of the tools

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**A** = Arriving (movement and passing of tools)

**S** = Safe Use of Tools

**S** = Storage of Tools

### Parts

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This is a sheath knife.

This is the handle.

This is the cover.

I take the cover off like this.

This is the blade.

This is the cutting edge.

When I have finished with the knife I put the cover back on like this. (Sheath until hearing a click)

### Arriving

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I stand with the knife like this (knife in sheath, holding handle with blade pointing backwards and down)

I walk with the knife like this (knife in sheath, holding handle with blade pointing backwards and down)

I pass the knife like this. (Both hands on the sheath, passing the second person the handle)

### Safe Use

When I use the knife use it two arms and a tools length away from anyone except my partner like this.

I use the knife to cut cord and to whittle.

I have bare hands on the tool.

I have a glove on my helper hand.

When I am not using the knife I put it down with the handle facing forwards and the blade facing inwards.

### Storage

When I have finished with the knife I put it in the designated place or in the toolbox provided.

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Well done you **PASS**ed

