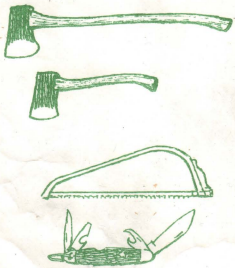




WOODS TOOLS



1. The basic woods tools used for the preparation of firewood and in other woodcraft skills are the $\frac{1}{2}$ ax, the hand ax, the bow saw, and the jackknife. The use of these woods tools takes place primarily in and around the patrol and troop campsite whether it be in camp or on the trail and in special woodcraft and campcraft projects.

Woods tools areas are conveniently located near the patrol cooking fire or near the Scoutmaster's tent at the troop campsite. A 4' to 6' log, 4" to 8" in diameter, serves as a guard and chopping block for splitting and sawing. Additional logs may be provided for practice.

Although there are many different types of each of these four basic woods tools, in Scouting the hand ax is called the Scout ax; and $\frac{1}{2}$ ax may be either the Super-Scout ax or the heavier Explorer ax; the bow saw is the 24" Bushman saw, the 21" Bushman all-purpose saw, or the Scheld folding saw; and the Scout pocketknife is the standard jackknife.



2. In teaching the correct use of woods tools, the steps in the preparation and working up of firewood provide a logical teaching progression. Begin by cutting down a small dead tree or cutting off a dead branch about 2" to 4" in diameter. The bow saw does the best job and leaves a flat stump cut close to the ground or a clean limb cut. Always undercut branches before cutting them off to avoid stripping bark and permanently injuring the tree.



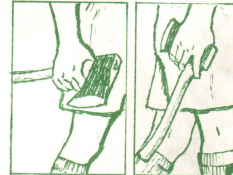
3. After dragging the tree or limb to the patrol site, it is trimmed with an ax or hand ax. To trim off limbs, stand on the opposite side of the trunk or limb and chop toward the top. If a hand ax is used, kneel down to your work and chop with one or two hands.



4. Lay the main trunk across the chopping log or crossed stakes driven in the ground. Holding it with your foot, using long, straight strokes with your bow saw, cut it into firewood lengths. The bow saw is a simple but efficient tool for this type of cutting, particularly for beginners.



5. Smaller branches are easily cut up with an ax or hand ax by using the contact method, holding the branch in one hand, the ax in the other. Place the blade on top of the branch on a slant to the grain rather than straight across. Bring both down firmly on the chopping log.

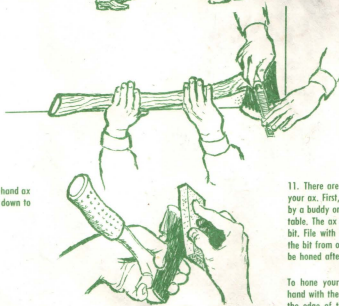


6. Split larger pieces of firewood with an ax by placing them against the chopping log. Keep hands low and feet well separated behind the chopping log. The chopping log may be set slightly in the ground or pegged to keep it from rolling.



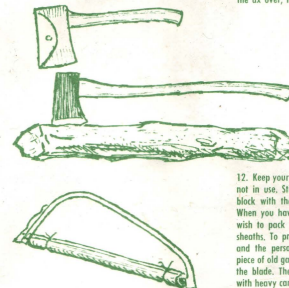
9. To carry ax around camp, clasp the handle next to the axhead with the bit facing out from the body and down, handle to the rear. To carry a hand ax place your hand around the head, handle down, bit to rear. To carry an ax for any distance, use a sheath and put it in your pack—not on your belt.

10. Pass an ax by holding the handle near the knob, axhead down, and passing to the other person with bit facing out between the two of you, at right angles. Be careful when passing ax and be sure receiver has a firm grip before you let go of it.



11. There are several easy methods of filing your ax. First, be sure your ax is held firmly by a buddy on a flat surface such as a log or table. The ax should be filed away from the bit. File with straight strokes working along the bit from one side to the other. Ax should be honed after filing.

To hone your ax, hold the axhead in one hand with the handle up. Rub the stone over the edge of the bit from side to side. Turn the ax over, handle down, and repeat.



8. Fuzz sticks or shavings are made from sticks of kindling and are used for starting fires in wet weather when natural tinder is not available.

12. Keep your axes and saw "muzzled" when not in use. Stick your axes in the chopping block with the handle running up the log. When you have finished using your axes or wish to pack them, put them back in their sheaths. To protect both the bow saw blade and the person carrying the saw, fasten a piece of old garden hose, split open to fit over the blade. The blade may also be wrapped with heavy cardboard. When not in use, place ax sheath or bow saw cover in your pocket or pack so they will not be lost. In camp, hang your bow saw in a protected spot off the ground.