

Troop 450 Policy Regarding the Use of Sheath Knives

1) Troop 450 acknowledges and accepts the Scouting BSA guidance regarding the use of sheath knives. The guide to safe Scouting states:

“A sharp pocketknife with a can opener on it is an invaluable backcountry tool. Keep it clean, sharp, and handy. Scouting BSA believes choosing the right equipment for the job at hand is the best answer to the question of what specific knife should be used. We are aware that many councils or camps may have limits on the type or style of knife that should be used. Scouting BSA neither encourages nor bans fixed-blade knives nor do we set a limit on blade length. Since its inception, Boy Scouting has relied heavily on an outdoor program to achieve its objectives. This program meets more of the purposes of Scouting than any other single feature. We believe we have a duty to instill in our members, youth and adult, the knowledge of how to use, handle, and store legally owned knives with the highest concern for safety and responsibility. Remember—knives are not allowed on school premises, nor can they be taken aboard commercial aircraft. References: Scouting BSA Handbook, “Field book”

Toward that end, Troop 450 has adopted the following conditions and expectations for the use of sheath knives:

- a) Sheath knives are not permitted at any **summer camp** except to be used for cooking or cleaning fish.
- b) Sheath knives are not to be taken to any **official** Scouting event that specifically prohibits them.
- c) Sheath knives may only be carried by youth that meet the following requirements:
 - 1) First class or above
 - 2) Have read and signed this policy
 - 3) Have parent signature
 - 4) Have a current Totin’ Chip
 - 5) Have presented the sheath knife in question to the Scoutmaster for approval.
- 2) The length of sheath knife blade must be appropriate for the size of the boy using it. The distance from the base of the palm to the finger tips is a good guide.
- 3) Sheath Knife use and responsibilities: All rules and responsibilities that accompany the Totin’ Chip award must be followed. Failure to use any knife, ax, or saw by these principles will result in the loss of the privilege. A knife improperly used may be confiscated by an adult leader and returned to a parent at the completion of the event.
- 4) The Scoutmaster is responsible for implementation of this policy and may deny the privilege of using a sheath knife (or any knife). Reasons for denial will be communicated to the troop committee. Any parent can restrict the use of a knife by their son for any reason.

We have read the policy and would like to request permission for our scout to use a sheath knife at approved events.

(Scout’s signature) _____

(Parents/guardian’s signature) _____