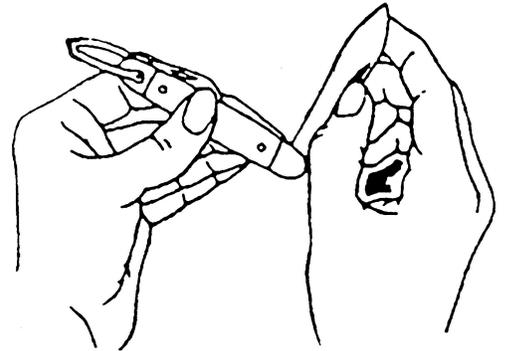


THE JACKKNIFE

Before you use your knife . . . before you even open it . . . check to see that you have enough room. Swing your arms in a half circle in front of you and then to the side. If you do not touch another person or any object, you have enough room. You have a **“SAFETY CIRCLE.”**

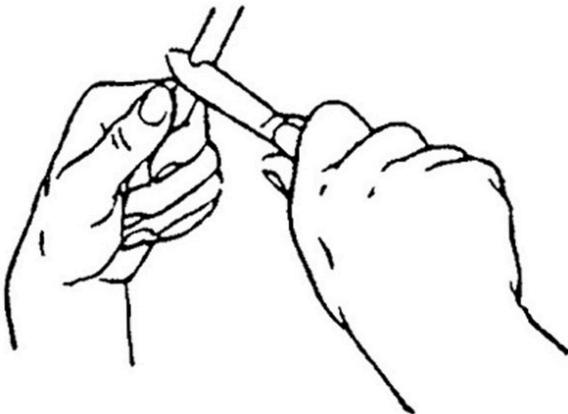
OPENING AND CLOSING A JACKKNIFE . .

Open and close your knife with BOTH hands. Then your fingers will be behind the blade if it snaps closed. TO OPEN . . . put your thumbnail in the slot of the blade. Keep your fingers away from the cutting edge. Pull the blade out all the way. Close the jackknife by doing these steps in reverse.



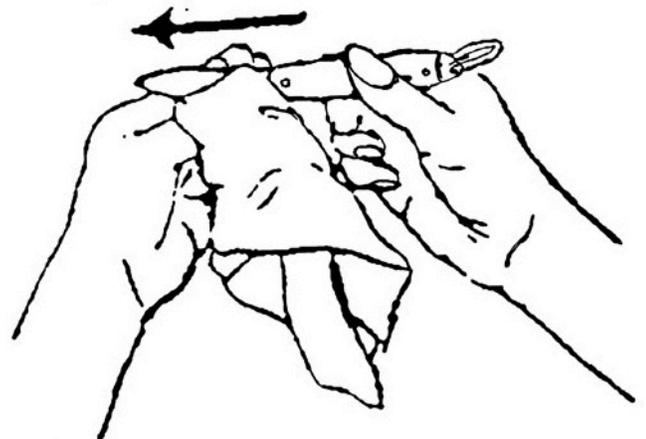
USING THE JACKKNIFE . .

Hold the handle with your whole hand. Do not put your thumb on the blade. Always cut away from yourself. Always keep at least an arm's length from others. Use your knife only to cut wood, vegetables, rope, soap. You may nick the blade if you use it on hard objects; if you stick it into the ground or use it to pry something open you may break it. You may break the handle if you use it as a hammer.



CLEANING YOUR KNIFE . .

Always keep your knife clean and dry. Hold the cleaning cloth at the back of the blade, not the cutting edge. Wipe carefully across the whole blade. Remove rust with steel wool. Keep the joints oiled so they do not become stiff. Never clean the blade by rubbing it in dirt or sand. This dulls the blade and makes the knife hard to open and close.

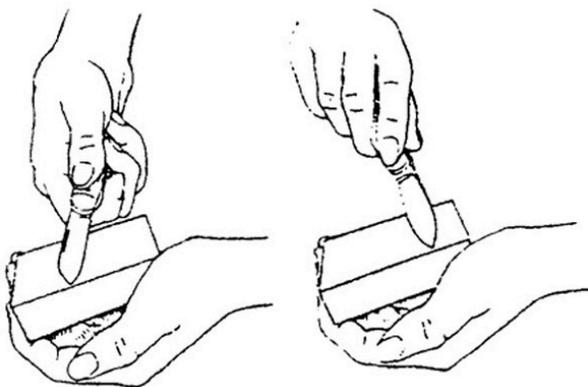


PASSING THE KNIFE . .

Always close a jackknife before you pass it. When passing a knife that does not close, the person passing the knife should hold it by the blade, with the cutting edge of the blade facing away from the hand. Pass it by the blade to the receiver without crossing your body. The person receiving the knife should take it by the handle. Passing a pocketknife this way gives the person holding the blade the most control. Once the person has taken the knife, it's best for her or him to say "Thank you, I have it," or simply "Thank you," to let the passer know the receiver now has control of the pocketknife. When not in use, a jackknife should be kept closed and in a pocket. A lanyard could be made as a holder to hang your knife from a belt or pack.

SHARPENING THE KNIFE . .

A sharp knife is safer than a dull knife.



Be sure to include a sharpening stone (called a Carborundum or whetstone) on your list of items to bring. The sharpening stone should be lubricated with oil or water before using. Use the stone's coarse side first to remove nicks, then follow with the finer side to hone the edge to perfection. Hold the stone in one hand and the open knife in the other. Keep the fingers holding the stone below the top edge of the sharpening stone.

Lay the flat side of the knife blade on the flat surface of the stone. The knife blade will be at a slight angle to the stone with the unsharpened edge of the blade slightly raised. Move the blade on the sharpening stone in a circular motion. When one side of the knife is sharp, turn the blade over and sharpen the other side. Use the same circular motion. Make sure the total cutting edge of the blade is in contact with the stone. After sharpening both sides of the blade on the coarse side of the stone, repeat the process on the finer side. The knife blade and the sharpening stone may become warm from the friction. Test the sharpness of the knife by cutting a piece of wood or a piece of rope.