

BSA Troop 35 Scout Knife Policy

As Approved by the Troop 35 Committee on December 6th, 2010, and amended, the following apply to all Troop 35 Scouts on BSA activities:

- Switchblades, Ballistic knives, Butterfly knives are not allowed.
- Any spring assisted opening technology knives are not allowed
- Large sheath knives are not allowed.
- Scout knife blade length can be no more than three inches.
- The Troop prefers locking blade knives to prevent folding incidents.
- All knives must be carried and used in safe manner to prevent accidents.
- A Scout must earn and carry BSA TOT'N'CHIP with them if they carry or use a scout knife, hatchet, saw, or axe at any Scouting activity.
- Violation of Troop 35 Knife Policy will result in reduced and/or revoked knife privileges as deemed fit by the Scoutmaster or his designee.
- Knives that are in violation of this policy will be confiscated and must be retrieved by the Scout's parent or guardian.

Background: The Troop Issue

Many types of knives are being carried by Scouts, many being way beyond the need. A Scout knife is a tool, not a weapon, not a toy, not a fashion accessory, not a status symbol. There have been near trip-ending incidents due to improper use and/or improper knives. Troop 35 has to institute their own policy, as there are no specific official Boy Scout knife policies. The only thing close to "official BSA Knife policy" is from the *Guide to Safe Scouting*.

"A sharp pocketknife with a can opener on it is an invaluable back country tool. Keep it clean, sharp, and handy. Avoid large sheath knives. They are heavy and awkward to carry, and unnecessary for most camp chores except for cleaning fish. 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."

Duval County and State of Florida statutes say little about knives, and federal statute is limited to the Federal Switchblade Act of 1958 that prohibits possession on Federal lands (i.e., National Parks).

Definitions

A **switchblade** (also known as an automatic knife, switch, or flick knife) is a type of knife with a folding or sliding blade contained in the handle which is opened by a spring when a button or lever on the grip is pressed.

A **ballistic knife** is an automatic knife with a detachable blade that can be expelled from the handle/frame as a projectile by means of a spring-operated or gas-driven mechanism. These knives have been banned nationwide in the United States since 1986.

A **Butterfly knife** is folding pocket knife with two handles counter-rotating around the tang such that, when closed, the blade is concealed within grooves in the handles.

Spring assisted opening technology uses an internal mechanism to open the blade from a closed position when slight pressure is applied to the thumbstud or the flipper. Trade names include Forward Action Spring Technology, A/O Knife, Torsion Assist Knife, Assisted Knife, Spring Assist Knife, Spring Assisted Knife, Quick Release, Quick Draw, Alternative Automatic, Outburst, SpeedSafe, Blade Launcher and the Semi-Auto.