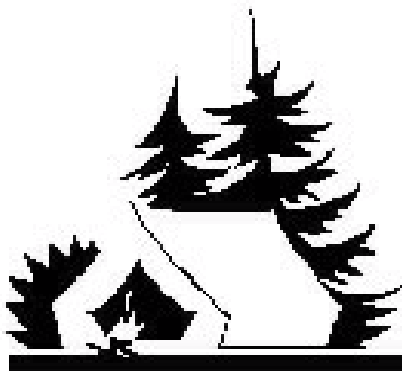


## TOTIN' CHIP RULES

Property of

And His Family



St. Rita's Boy Scouts  
Troop #161

Racine, Wisconsin

**Boy Scout Troop #161  
Totin' Chip Rules**

**MY RULES  
MY PRIVILEGES  
MY RESPONSIBILITIES**

**General**

All scouts, leaders and parents must earn a Totin' Chip in order to carry or use wood tools, matches or fires at any scout event. Totin' Chip is a privilege earned by an individual so that he may carry or use wood tools, matches or fires. He must always have this card on his person or in his immediate vicinity and show it to adult leadership as requested. The card itself is a symbol that the individual has been trained and tested in the proper use of wood tools, matches and fires for his own sake and everyone else's.

To earn a Totin' Chip, an individual:

1. Must read the sections on "wood tools" and "safe fire building" of the Scout Handbook starting on page 402);
2. Must read and understand Troop #161's Totin' Chip rules for use of knife, ax, saw, matches and fires;
3. Must pass the Totin' Chip test administered by troop leadership. This includes a verbal and a demonstration test.

\* Note: The Scout Handbook may suggest usage of a butane lighter. Our troop will follow a policy of not using them. As such, lighters are not to be used for lighting fires while in camp without the specific permission of the scoutmaster.

**SAFETY IS MANDATORY**

If an individual improperly uses any of his Totin' Chip privileges, the scoutmaster or any member of troop leadership will remove one or more corners of his Totin' Chip card and date & sign the card. The entire card can and will be revoked for a serious infraction. After all 4 corners are removed, the entire card is revoked.

Any individual who knowingly fails to report a violation to the scoutmaster will lose a corner from his own card.

If a person loses less than 4 corners of his card and goes for one year without any additional infractions, he may request a new card with all its corners from the scoutmaster. If a person has his card revoked, the individual must wait one full year before requesting a new Totin' Chip. Only after re-instruction as to the rules of Totin' Chip AND successful completion of the test, administered by the scoutmaster, will the Totin' Chip be reissued. If a card is revoked for a second time, the person has lost his Totin' Chip privileges forever. If a Scout loses or misplaces his card, he may take the course over before a new card may be issued. If the card goes through the wash and is destroyed for other reasons, a new card may be request by brining in the remaining pieces of the card.

## **Knife - Safety Rules**

1. Use only when you have your Totin' Chip card on your person or when otherwise directed by a member of troop leadership.
2. No sheath type knives allowed.
3. Never touch a living tree without specific permission.
4. A knife is a wood tool, not a play toy.
5. Keep everyone else more than one arms-length away.
6. Open knife only when sitting or kneeling.
7. Lay knife aside safely between immediate uses.
8. Close blade immediately when job is finished.
9. Always cut away from yourself.
10. Use large blade for coarse cuts and grip the entire handle in the palm of your hand.
11. Use small blade for fine whittling by pushing on the back of the blade with your thumb.
12. Pass the knife handle first and wait for the "Thank You".
13. Never open more than one blade at a time.

### **Proper Care**

1. Keep knife clean, dry and sharp.
2. Never use knife on things that will dull or break it.
3. Keep knife off the ground, moisture and dirt will ruin it. Keep knife out of fire, heat will soften it.
4. Wipe blade clean after using it.
5. Oil hinge joint occasionally.
6. Sharpen your knife with a slicing motion as if cutting into the stone.
7. Do not hammer on the back of the blade.
8. Keep knife closed when not in use.

## **AX - Safety Rules**

1. Use only when you have your Totin' Chip card on your person or when otherwise directed by a member of troop leadership.
2. Never touch a living tree without specific permission.
3. An ax is a wood tool, not a play toy.
4. Keep sheath on the ax when not in use.
5. Use ax only in the ax yard.
6. Keep everything (ground & overhead) at least one ax length away.
7. Keep everyone more than two ax lengths away.
8. Always place another piece of wood under the one being chopped.
9. Be careful of arms, feet and legs when chopping.
10. Whenever possible, use contact chopping.
11. For v-notch chopping, the width of the 'v' at the top should equal the log diameter.
12. Lay the ax aside safely between intermediate uses.
13. Rest when tired.
14. Put sheath back on the ax head when job is finished.
15. Carry ax with head up and blade pointing away from everyone.
16. Pass ax with head down, blade pointing away from everyone, and wait for the "thank you".
17. An ax is not a substitute for a saw. An ax is used mainly for splitting small wood or removing tree branches.
18. Always use acceptable eye protection when using ax or sledgehammer and wedge.

### **Proper Care**

1. Keep blades clean, dry and sharp.
2. Keep the ax handle tight at all times.
3. Never use ax on things that will dull or break it.
4. Keep ax off the ground, moisture and dirt will ruin it. Keep ax out of fire, heat will soften it.
5. Wipe ax blade clean after using it.
6. Sharpen ax as necessary. File into the blade to remove the knicks. Hone across the face to put on a cutting edge.
7. Use an ax only for chopping. It is not a hammer or wedge. Use sledgehammer and wedge for splitting large pieces of wood. Keep a sheath on the ax when not in use.

## **Saw - Safety Rules**

1. Use only when you have your Totin' Chip card on your person or when otherwise directed by a member of troop leadership.
2. Never touch a living tree without specific permission.
3. A saw blade is a wood tool, not a play toy
4. Keep blade guard on when not in use.
5. Keep other people a safe distance away.
6. Always put another piece of wood under the cut you are making to prevent binding and to protect the blade.
7. Be especially careful not to pinch fingers or cut legs.
8. Lay saw aside safely between immediate uses.
9. Rest when tired.
10. Put blade guard back on when the job is finished.
11. Carry saw with blade pointing down.
12. Pass saw with the blade pointing down and wait for the "thank you".

## **Proper Care**

1. Keep blade clean, dry and sharp
2. Keep blade tight at all times.
3. Keep saw off the ground, moisture and dirt will ruin it. Never use saw on things that will dull or break it. Keep saw out of fire, heat will soften it.
4. Clean saw blade after using.
5. Sharpening a wood saw takes special tools and skills. Do not attempt to do it.
6. Use tool for sawing only. The blade is fragile and very easily damaged.
7. Keep guard on when not in use.

## **Match and Fire - Safety Rules**

1. Light a fire only when you have your Totin' Chip card on your person or when otherwise directed by a member of troop leadership.
2. Always carry your matches in a safety container.
3. Use only wooden or paper matches, and only flint, steel or friction to ignite a fire. No other lighters are permitted.
4. No liquid fuels are permitted for lighting fires.
5. Fire starters as described in the scout handbook are allowed.
6. Fires must be at least 20 feet away from all tents, trees, vehicles, etc.
7. Clear an area 10 feet in diameter of debris and tinder (dry twigs, leaves, grasses, and pine needles) for fire site.
8. Sufficient water and a shovel must be at the fire site **before it can be lit**.
9. All additional fuel must be stored outside the 10-foot circle and to one side so that no one trips over it.
10. Spectators must be one body length away from the fire pit.
11. All fires must be completely out and cold before leaving them. This includes going to bed.

## **Proper Igniting Procedure:**

1. Locate fire site 20 feet away from everything.
2. Clear a 10-foot area of tinder and debris.
3. Locate sufficient water and a shovel at the edge of the 10-foot circle for emergency purposes.
4. Gather wood and prepare into tinder, kindling and fuel.
5. Stack some kindling over the tinder and light. Add more kindling and fuel as needed.

## **Proper Extinguishing Procedure:**

1. Spread coals apart and sprinkle with water from your hand.
  2. Stir wetted coals and sprinkle with more water until coals are dead cold.
- Carefully hold your hand over the coals to make sure they are cold.