

KNOTTING

Before this session, the Cub must revise the Bronze Arrow knots (Reef Knot, Figure of Eight, Thumb Knot, Shoe Laces, and Hank a Rope).

For the Silver Arrow, the Cubs learn how to tie a Sheet Bend and a Clove Hitch. The Sheet Bend is a 'non slip' knot.

Sheet Bend (Weaver's knot)

The Sheet Bend is a useful knot for tying two ropes together, even when rope sizes and materials differ greatly. It is suitable for most non-critical applications and can also be used to secure a rope to the eye of a cable or hawser. It is the knot that was used on sailing ships for tying sheets together (the ropes used to hoist the sails). *For more security use the doubled version which is the same as the single version but with an extra coil around the standing loop.

How to tie the Sheet Bend:

- Step 1** Make a bight in the thicker piece of rope (Blue rope).
- Steps 2- 3** Pass the thinner red rope through this bight.
- Step 4** Then pass it around the blue tail and blue standing end in that order.
- Step 5** Finally tuck the thinner rope under itself to finish the knot.

When tied correctly the two ends lie on the same side of the knot. If there is extra rope the smaller rope can be used to make the double sheet bend*



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Step 4



Step 5



Clove Hitch

The Clove Hitch is commonly used in pioneering to start and finish a lashing such as the traditional square lashing, tripod lashing, diagonal lashing, and sheer lashing.

It is made of two half hitches. The Clove Hitch's problems are slipping and binding and hence it cannot be used alone by itself. With certain types of cord, the clove hitch can slip when loaded. Make the knot secure by stacking on additional Half Hitches (optional).

Note: Multiple clove hitches create a major strain and cause the earlier turns to bind tightly and become hard to untie.

This knot is particularly useful where the length of the running end needs to be adjustable, since feeding in rope from either direction will loosen the knot to be tightened at a new position. In modern climbing rope, the clove hitch will slip to a point, and then stop slipping. With smaller diameter cords, after being heavily weighted it may become difficult to untie.

How to tie a Clove Hitch Method 1:

- Step 1** Pass the end of the rope around the pole.
- Step 2** Continue across the standing end.
- Step 3** Around the pole the second time.
- Step 4** Tread the end under itself.
- Step 5** Pull tight from both sides to complete. An 'X' should form.



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Step 4



Step 5



How to tie a Clove Hitch Method 2:

(This method can be used in the middle of the rope.)

- Step 1** Form a loop where the knot is needed.
- Step 2** Then form a second identical one - "the same way up".
- Step 3** Put the loops one above the other so they form a knot - instead of just two loops stacked on each other.
- Step 4** Place the knot over the post and tighten it.



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Step 4



ACTIVITY FACT SHEET

Suggestion:

- o Revise the Bronze section before showing new knots. The concepts of knotting should be done in a practical session with the cubs, show them how to make them, giving them examples from our everyday life and let them try it out.



Activity: Weekly meeting



Objective: Learn more advanced knots



Time: 2 - 4 hours



Outline:

First do some revision of the knots learnt in the Bronze Arrow. Then teach all the cubs in the Silver section how to do the Sheet Band and Clove Hitch. Let them learn by doing the knots and repeating them several times. Let them explore and understand in their own way. It is important to assist and check their work so they learn them the right way. Explain and show how and why these knots can be used.



Equipment: Ropes and poles



Place: HQ/Campsite/Outdoors



Group Size: Silver Section



3rd Parties: N/A



ACTIVITY FACT SHEET



During the Activity:

- SOCIAL** – The cubs help each other by explaining and showing the knots to each other. In addition it is important to point out how the knots can be used in real life.
- PHYSICAL** – It is important to tie the knots strongly and in the right way so that the knots won't untie.
- INTELLECTUAL** – Knotting is part of the important scouting skills. Giving the cubs the opportunity to learn the knots, try them out and put them to use helps the cubs start to understand why they are so important.
- CREATIVE** – Cubs are allowed to experiment different ways and uses of the knots in our everyday life.
- EMOTIONAL** – Discuss the satisfaction of being able to tie the knots correctly and to use them practically.
- SPIRITUAL** – Cubs do their best to fulfill their goal and succeed in their task not only individually but as a team (six/pack). When a cub learns how to tie a particular knot, he is to help his/her fellow cubs in the learning process.

After the Activity:

We as leaders need to create opportunities where the cubs can practice the knots whenever possible. Knots are a skill which if not practiced can be forgotten.

