**Knife Policy**

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**Policy Owner –** Sarah Rands – Group Lead Volunteer

**Date of Policy –** May 2024

**To be Reviewed;** Every 12 months

**Version - 1**

**Policy Applicable to:** All Leaders including Trustee Board Members, Young Leaders, Volunteers, Suppliers, Contractors and members of the Public who are involved with 1st Topcliffe Scout Group.

 **In Brief**

Knives are a key tool in bush craft and survival skills which is an important part of Scouting. 1st Topcliffe Scout Group is committed to the responsible use of knives within the programme.

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# Version Control

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| **Version**  | **Author/ Editor**  | **Release Date**  |
| **1.0**  | Sarah Rands  |  May 2024 |
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# Who are we?

# Our Scout Group, 1st Topcliffe Scout Group, is a youth charity. Our mission is to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society. From this point on 1st Topcliffe Scout Group will be referred to as “we” or “the Group” or “1st Topcliffe”. We are incorporated by royal charter and are regulated as a member of The Scouts Association in the United Kingdom. We hold an annual general meeting (AGM) every year. This is where members of the trustee board are elected. Any parent, guardian or carer of a youth member can volunteer to be on the trustee board at the AGM. Every parent, guardian or carer also has the right to attend the Annual General Meeting.

**The Law**

* It is illegal to carry a knife in public without good reason unless it has a folding blade with a cutting edge 3 inches long or less.
* Lock knives (have blades that can be locked and refolded only by pressing a button) are not classed as folding knives and are illegal to carry in public without good reason.
* UK Laws on Knives: [www.gov.uk/buying-carrying-knives](http://www.gov.uk/buying-carrying-knives)

**The Knife, Axe and Saw Licence**

Training will be carried out with Scouts which will include: method, maintenance, safety, first aid and law based on the Scouts Knife Safety factsheet. Once training is complete they will undergo an assessment to ensure they have understood the training, if the leader is satisfied with the Scouts knowledge they will issue them with a knife activity permit (KAP) which will be valid for one year and logged on OSM. Once the Leadership team are confident with the young person’s abilities, knowledge and restraint when using a knife; the young person will be invited to bring their own knife to future sessions when specifically asked to, in line with Our Rules as outlined below.

To obtain a KAS licence a Scout must:

* Demonstrate they can use a knife correctly and safely.
* Demonstrate they can use an axe correctly and safely.
* Demonstrate they can use a saw correctly and safely.
* Have undertaken the knife theory test (this is a verbal test on the safety of using knives, including the content of this document)
* Be trusted to use knives, axes or saw in the future.

*The KAS licence can be revoked at any time.*

**Our Rules**

These rules refer to use of pen knives, lock knives or fixed blade knives; along with all varieties of axe and saw. Kitchen knives, kitchen scissors and craft knives also could harm others, so should be used with equal care, direction and supervision. The group holds a set of knives, axes and saws which will be kept in a locked box when not in use and will be well maintained. Scouts do not have to spend money on their own tools.

1. Scouts must only bring a knife to a Scouting activity or camp when instructed to do so by a leader.

2. Upon arrival to a Scouting activity or camp, all knives must be handed to a leader for safekeeping.

3. Scouts must gain permission from a leader before collecting and using their knife.

4. Scouts who do not have their Knife, Axe and Saw (KAS) licence can only use a knife (including an axe or saw) under the direct supervision of a leader.

5. Scouts who have their KAS licence have demonstrated that they can be trusted to use a knife safely and so can use a knife without the direct instruction of a leader but must have permission to use the knife.

6. When using knives Scouts must use the correct methods learnt in training; and carry out the activity in a safe, responsible manner.

7. When transporting a knife to training at HQ, a camp or other event, Scouts should have their knife securely stored in the middle of a rucksack.

8. A knife should never be carried in a pocket or taken to a location other for Scouting based activities.

9. Leaders and adult helpers may bring their own knives when appropriate to do so. They must be used in a safe manner, and not be used by young people. When not in use they must be kept safely out of the reach of young people.