

## Ax safety: Charter Organization Policy – Unit 102

RE: Scout Tool Safety:

These policies are effective immediately (02/16/10; revised on 03/24/10). This policy was created clarify some safety concerns. I know that the scout handbook teaches scout tool safety but the following clarifications will be used by Unit 102. The following items are policies that our charter organization has enacted to avoid accidents with the ax and hatchet.

1. No scout will use an ax or hatchet without adult supervision. The adult supervision must be done by someone who knows proper use, care, and safety of the tool being used. The adult must have no other responsibilities or distractions at the time he/she is supervising the scout. If called away or distracted, the supervisor must have the scout store the tool safely until the adult supervisor can give his undivided attention to the supervision of the scout using the tool. Each tool being used will have its own adult supervisor.
2. Anyone in Unit 102 using an ax or hatchet, will not hold on to the piece of wood that they intend to cut or split from the top end of the wood. Lay the wood to be cut or split on a flat chopping block to split it from the side. You may also hold the piece of wood, with the ax or hatchet against the side of the wood. Bring them down hard, keeping them together, against a chopping block to split the wood. Make sure they stay together as you bring them down against a chopping block. Make sure your hand is a safe distance from the ax or hatchet while bringing them down together. Make sure you are in a safe stance. Make sure, that if the tool bounces or glances off of the wood being cut or split, it will not hit your hands, feet or legs.
3. Any time an ax or hatchet is taken out to be used there must be a flat chopping block as part of the necessary equipment for the use of the tool. If an ax or hatchet is packed for a campout, you must also pack a flat chopping block to take with you. Under no circumstances are an ax or a hatchet to be used without a flat chopping block.