



Wood Carving

Scouts BSA · Hobbies

Name

Started

Completed

Wood Carving lets you turn a simple block of wood into something useful or beautiful. You will learn knife safety, practice basic cuts, and complete your own carvings. Go slow, be safe, and enjoy the process.

Requirements

Every official requirement, in plain language. Check the official wording when you sign off (scouting.org/merit-badges/wood-carving/). Tips and examples are ideas, not extra requirements.

1 Safety and first aid

Tips for this section: Learn the hazards of sharp tools and how to treat a small cut.

Example for this section: Explain how cuts happen when carving toward yourself, using a dull blade, or rushing. Then show the first aid for a small cut: apply pressure with a clean cloth, clean and bandage it, and tell an adult.

- ☐ **1a** Explain to your counselor the hazards you're most likely to face while carving and how to anticipate, prevent, and reduce them

- ☐ **1b** Show you know first aid for carving injuries, including small cuts, scratches, and splinters

2 Knife safety

Tips for this section: Earn your Totin' Chip first and practice safe knife handling with a leader.

- ☐ **2a** Earn the Totin' Chip

- ☐ **2b** Discuss what you understand about the Safety Checklist for Carving with your counselor

3 Tools and sharpening

Tips for this section: Ask an experienced carver to show you how to sharpen and care for your tools.

Example for this section: With your counselor, practice sharpening on a stone and stropping your blade. Explain how to store tools so edges stay sharp and nobody gets hurt reaching into a bag.

- ☐ **3a** Explain to your counselor, out loud or in writing, how to use and care for 5 kinds of tools you might use for carving

- ☐ **3b** Tell your counselor how to use and care for several kinds of sharpening devices, then show you can use them

- ☐ **4** On scrap wood or a project you're working on, show your counselor you can make each of these cuts

Tip: Practice each cut on scrap wood until it feels controlled and steady.

Example: On a scrap block, practice the stop cut, the push cut, the pull cut with your thumb behind the blade, and the V-cut. Keep your free hand out of the blade's path and wear a carving glove on it.

- ☐ **4a** Paring cut

- ☐ **4b** Basic cut and push cut

- ☐ **4c** V cut

- ☐ **4d** Stop cut or score line

- ☐ **5** Explain why different kinds of wood suit different projects, and why you picked the wood you used for requirements 6 and 7

Tip: Feel and compare a few soft and hard woods, and talk about which suit different projects.

Example: Compare basswood, pine, and a hardwood like oak by feel and by trying a cut in each. Explain why soft, even-grained basswood works for detailed figures while harder woods suit spoons or bowls.

- ☐ **6** Carve a simple piece in the round from your own design or a project in the Wood Carving merit badge pamphlet

Tip: Start with a simple shape, like an animal, and take your time.

Example: Carve a simple animal, like a fish, bear, or bird, in the round. Draw the outline on two sides of the block, rough out the shape, then add details and smooth it before finishing with oil or wax.

- ☐ **7** Finish a simple low-relief carving or a chip carving project

Tip: Try a simple design on a flat board using low relief or chip carving.