



AWARD WORKSHEET

Paul Bunyan Award

Scouts BSA

Name

Started

Completed

The Paul Bunyan Award is for Scouts who want to master woods tools. You'll go beyond basic safety, teach others, and put your skills to work on a conservation project. It's a great way to become the go-to tool expert in your troop.

Requirements

Every official requirement, in plain language. Check the official wording when you sign off (scouting.org/awards/awards-central/paul-bunyan/). Tips and examples are ideas, not extra requirements.

- ☐ **1** Explain the most likely hazards of using the woods tools in requirement 5 and how to anticipate, prevent, manage, and respond to them

Tip: List common hazards for each tool, like glancing blows or dull blades, and how to prevent them.

Example: For each tool, name a hazard and a fix: a dull ax glances off wood (keep it sharp), someone inside your swing (clear a safety circle), a saw binding in a cut (support the log so the cut opens). If someone gets hurt, stop work and start first aid.

- ☐ **2** Demonstrate first aid for injuries woods tools can cause

Tip: Practice first aid for cuts and other injuries with a buddy. Know when to call for help.

- ☐ **3** Earn the Totin' Chip

Tip: If you don't have it yet, earn the Totin' Chip first. It's the foundation for everything in this award.

- ☐ **4** Help a Scout or a patrol earn the Totin' Chip, showing them why using woods tools properly matters

Tip: Teach a younger Scout or patrol using clear steps and lots of hands-on practice. Show safe habits every time you handle a tool.

Example: Teach with EDGE at a patrol meeting: explain the safety circle, demonstrate passing a knife and handing off a saw, guide each Scout through practice cuts on a log, then watch them work on their own before signing off.

- ☐ **5** Know how to use, maintain, and store woods tools safely and properly: ax, hatchet, saw, loppers, McLeod, Pulaski, shovel, pick ax, and pry bar

Tip: Learn how each tool works, how to sharpen and care for it, and how to store it safely. An adult with tool experience can show you.

Example: Care and storage: sheath the ax and wipe it dry, keep saw blades covered, oil metal to stop rust, check handles for cracks or looseness, and store tools in a supervised spot away from where people walk.

- ☐ **6** Demonstrate the proper use of four tools from requirement 5

Tip: Pick four tools and practice with an experienced adult watching until you're confident.

Example: Pick four, like the bow saw, ax, loppers, and McLeod. Show the right stance, grip, and stroke for each on a real job: cutting firewood, trimming brush, or scraping a trail tread.

- ☐ **7** With your unit leader's approval and supervision, use woods tools for at least 2 hours on one conservation project: clear trails or fire lanes; trim a downed tree, cut it into 4-foot lengths, stack it, and pile the brush; or build an irrigation way or natural retaining wall to aid a planned conservation effort

Tip: Ask a park or forest office about trail work, brush clearing, or similar projects. Work with supervision and proper gear.

Example: Two supervised hours could be clearing brush from a trail corridor with loppers, shaping a drainage dip with a McLeod, or cutting a fallen tree off a trail with a bow saw, all with your crew leader watching.