

Knots used in Cub Scouts

There are many resources available for learning how to tie knots. You can purchase books, laminated cards, flash cards, etc. You can find even more on the Internet, but some of the best sources to learn from can't be purchased or visited on a computer. Those resources are your parents, grand parents, friends and fellow scouts. Most of the basic knots are usually handed down from father to son or grandfather to grandson during a special outing like a camping trip or a fishing trip. There is usually a story that goes along with them as well. You know, "That monster bass got away because I couldn't tie a proper fisherman's knot. Well that's not going to happen to you ..." You may also learn on your own, out of necessity, when your tent keeps blowing down or your boat floats away. Knots are used many ways in everyday life. We use knots when tying a package for shipping, tying up a boat to a dock, tying our shoes, tying our tent down and tying our dog so it won't get away. We tie up trees so they won't blow over; we tie up volley ball or badminton nets; we tie knots on fishing hooks and lures. In Cub Scouts we use a lot of knots when we go camping. Difficult tasks like dragging large logs around our campfire for sitting on can be made simpler by knowing how to tie the right kind of knot. Listed on the next two pages are some of the most common knots used in Cub Scouts and everyday situations. These knots and their descriptions for uses were found on the Internet. The website was created by a Scout group just like yours so others could learn how to tie knots. This website is the first listed in our website list, called "How to Tie Popular Knots" ***So Lets Tie Some Knots...***

Website List:

How to Tie Popular Knots

<http://www.troop7.org/Knots>

Boy Scout Knots Test

http://www.boyscouttrail.com/tests/knot_test2.asp

Animated Knots

<http://www.troop9.org/?s=knots/index>

Books:

A Handbook of Knots and Knot Tying (Amazon.com Listing)

Author: Geoffrey Budworth

Paperback Approx \$18.99

<http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Knots-Knot-Tying/dp/184215818X>

Knots and how to Tie Them (Barnes & Noble)

Author: Walter Brown Gibson

Hardcover Approx \$5.99

<http://search.barnesandnoble.com/booksearch/isbnInquiry.asp?z=y&EAN=9780517093696&itm=8>

The Knots Handbook: Step-by-step Instructions for Tying any Knot (Barnes & Noble)

Author: Randy Penn

Hardcover Approx \$7.99

<http://search.barnesandnoble.com/booksearch/isbnInquiry.asp?z=y&EAN=9780760780596&itm=4>

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Overhand Knot



This knot is used as a "stopping" knot.

Square Knot



You can loosen the square knot easily by either pushing the ends toward the knot or by "upsetting" the knot by pulling back on one end and pulling the other through the loops.

Sheet Bend



The sheet bend is the most important knot for joining two rope ends, especially if the ropes are of different sizes. Sailors named it in the days of sailing ships when they would "bend" (tie) the "sheets" (ropes attached to the clew of the sail).

Begin with a bight in the larger rope. Then weave the end of the smaller rope through the eye, around the bight, and back under it. Snug it carefully before applying any strain to the knot.

Fisherman's Knot



The fisherman's knot is used for joining two fine lines such as fishing leaders. It is simply two overhand knots, one holding the right-hand line, and the other the left-hand line. Pull each of the two overhand knots taut separately. Then make the whole knot taut so the two overhand knots come together by pulling on the standing parts of each line.

Bowline

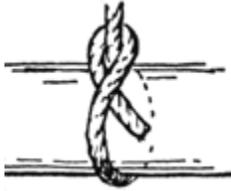


The bowline has been called the king of knots. It will never slip or jam if properly made and, thus, is excellent for tying around a person in a rescue.

Begin by forming an overhand loop in the standing part. Then take the free end up through the eye, around the standing part and back where it came from.

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Half Hitch



The half hitch is the start of a number of other hitches and is useful all by itself as a temporary attaching knot. It will hold against a steady pull on the standing part, especially if a stopper knot like the stevedore's knot or other figure eight knot is put in the end.

Sailor's Knot



"It's basically two half hitches. It has the same advantage. Pulling the knot back along the line it goes around can be used to make the line taut. It's good for tent lines too."

Figure Eight Knot



Often used in such places as the end of a string when tying a package with a slipknot or in the end of a rope forming a lariat loop.

Clove Hitch



This is one of the most widely used knots. Because it passes around an object in only one direction, it puts very little strain on the rope fibers. Tying it over an object that is open at one end is done by dropping one overhand loop over the post and drawing them together. The other method of tying it is used most commonly if the object is closed at both ends or is too high to toss loops over. The latter is used in starting and finishing most lashings.

Lariat Loop



The name describes the use. The knot forms the fixed loop through which the cowgirl/cowboy pokes through the remaining long rope to form an elastic hoop, which is then spun overhead (lots of wrist action) and thrown to capture (or lasso) an animal.