

To Troop 1377 Scouts, especially new-to-troop Scouts:

Every year, we have a knife class for the new Pedro Scouts, as well as occasionally working with some of the older Scouts and Scouters on knife knowledge, sharpening, and fundamentals.

The recommended knife for Scouting is the Gerber LST or some other brand of similar construction. Blade length is 1.75" to 2.5". Handle material is a hard plastic. Lock feature is essential. A hole-for-lanyard feature is also nice. A knife such as this costs anywhere from \$12 on the low side to about \$16 on the high side, assuming you get a good knife, like Gerber, Schrade, Case, Puma, Buck, Columbia River Knife and Tool (CRKT), Spyderco, Camiollus, to name a few. Avoid the knives with metal or bone handles, since they carry unnecessary weight.

Also, do not buy knife-sharpening tools yet. Again, this will be covered at Summer Camp.

PLEASE... *Do not buy Swiss Army knives with wine cork screws. Do not buy any knife which has no lock blade feature.* Do not buy some big, heavy knife with a 4" blade. Do not buy a sheath knife. When these knives show up at summer camp, the Scout is encouraged to give the knife to a favorite uncle or something. Also, avoid the big multi-purpose knife tools. Even the quality versions, like Leatherman or Schrade or Gerber, are just too heavy for any Scout who weighs less than 120# and is fit. The poor quality versions, typically made in Pakistan or China, are cheap enough; but they have too many problems for the new or lightweight Scout.

I recommend that you **do not** go to the Scout office to buy a knife. Try Alspaugh Hardware or Lowes or Academy. The knives at the Scout office, though they are sold at the Scout Office, are not of sufficient quality nor are they consistently safe to use. [About 6 years ago, Zach S. was going through the Pedro class sessions. He wanted to know why the Scout Office sells knives that are of poor quality and unfit for Scout activity. Zach is a genius.]



Suggestions from Bruce Robinson