

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of Granting Permission to the Cascade)
Pacific Council Boy Scouts of America to Conduct)
Tomahawk and Knife Throwing, Ax Yard and Rope) ORDER NO. 72 - 2004
Bridge Activities at Camp Wilkerson During Its)
Reserved Use From October 8th to October 10th, 2004)
_____)

WHEREAS, the Columbia County Forest, Parks and Recreation Rules and Regulations prohibit the use of tomahawks, knives and other weapons in any County Park, including Camp Wilkerson, without the express permission of the Board of County Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the Oak Hills Troop 728, a member of the Cascade Pacific Council Boy Scouts of America hosting a weekend scout skills competition, has applied for a permit to hold said competition at Camp Wilkerson, a County park, from October 8th to October 10th, 2004; and

WHEREAS, the Oak Hills Troop 728 has requested permission to conduct tomahawk and knife throwing contests and rope bridge and ax yard activities during their reserved-use stay, all activities to be conducted with experienced adult supervision, a copy of said written request being attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by this reference; and

WHEREAS, Boy Scouts of America Troops 728, 207, 208 and others have been invited, with an expected 350 scouts and leaders present during the reserved-use stay, all members of the Cascade Pacific Council; and

WHEREAS, the Cascade Pacific Council has agreed to sign a Hold Harmless Agreement indemnifying the County for any injury to person or property arising from its activities during its stay at Camp Wilkerson, and to provide an appropriate Certificate of Insurance listing Columbia County, its officers, agents and employees, as additional insureds; and

WHEREAS, the Oak Hills Troop 728 has given assurances that all activities of the skill testing competition, including the tomahawk and knife throwing activities, the rope bridge activities, as well as activities taking place in the ax yard will be well supervised and done safely and in compliance with Boy Scouts of America policies, procedures and rules, said policies procedures and rules being attached hereto as Exhibit B and by this reference incorporated herein, and have further agreed to abide by any conditions placed upon the Cascade Pacific Council in connection with these activities;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

1. Subject to receipt of the Hold Harmless Agreement and Certificate of Insurance, and approval of same by the Office of County Counsel, members of the Cascade Pacific Council Boy Scouts of America are granted permission to conduct scout skills testing and competition during its reserved-use stay from October 8th through October 10th, 2004, all such activities to take place under experienced, adult supervision as set forth in Exhibit B.

2. The tomahawk and knife throwing range shall be set up in the lower meadow, an area of the Park that is segregated, by the natural contours of the land, from the rest of the Park, and the range roped off with "caution" or other warning signs or safety barriers.

3. The rope monkey bridge shall be used on and over land, not water, and shall have at least one adult supervisor present at all times while in use.

3. All hay bales and/or other items used for all phases of the scouts skills testing competition shall be removed prior to departure, with the Park left in as good, or better, condition than upon arrival.

4. All members of the Cascade Pacific Council Boy Scouts of America shall comply with all park rules and regulations during its use of Camp Wilkerson, except as specifically exempted by this Order.

DATED this 29th day of September, 2004.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: not present
Chair

By: _____
Commissioner

By: Joe Corvino
Commissioner

Approved as to form

By: John K. [Signature]
Office of County Counsel

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TROOP 728

Beaverton, Oregon

EXHIBIT A

4174 NW 179th Place
Portland, OR 97229
503-629-5341

July 14, 2004

Linda Salle
Columbia County Parks Department
1054 Oregon Street
St. Helens, OR 97051

Dear Linda,

This is our proposal to rent all of Camp Wilkerson for the weekend of October 8 to 10, 2004.

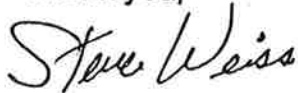
- Dates:** Friday, October 8, 2004 to Sunday, October 10, 2004
- Use:** Boy Scout camping and scout skills competition throughout all areas of the park.
- Units:** BSA Troops 728, 207, 208, and other invited troops for a total of about 350 scouts and adult leaders
- Activities:** Skill testing stations will be located throughout Camp Wilkerson. At these stations, adults will supervise and grade the scouts' performances. The skills will be Scout knowledge, Fire Starting, Pioneering/problem solving, Knots, Plant identification, Flag etiquette, an obstacle course, and Tomahawk and knife throwing. We will have a campfire entertainment on Saturday night and an awards ceremony on Sunday morning.
- Rules:** We will abide by all rules and regulations of the Columbia County Parks Department. We will follow all Boys Scouts of America policies. These include having trained range masters and a BSA specified range for the Tomahawk and knife throwing events. We follow the "leave no trace" camping philosophy to leave the campground better than when we arrived.
- Needs:** For a group of this size we will need 8 porta-potties to supplement the existing bathroom facilities. We will need early access to Camp Wilkerson on Friday, October 8, to prepare our more elaborate skill testing areas.

Price: Fees based on Parks' fee schedule – 2004 BOC Order No. 11-2004, 25 adirondaks @ \$20 each is \$500 per day. Group discount of 25% for more than 50% under the age of 18 equals \$375 per day. Additional \$100 per day to rent the remainder of the park and have 8 porta-potties brought in for proper sanitation. Total payment for the weekend to equal \$950.

Insurance: Columbia Pacific Council of the Boys Scouts of America will issue a letter of explanation of the liability insurance policies that will cover this event. It will be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

We would appreciate any additional concession on pricing which the parks could provide, which would allow us to lower the cost for our scouts to attend. If any of these points needs clarification or an explanation, please contact me, Steve Weiss, at 503-629-5341. We hope to work with Columbia County Parks Department to make this a memorable weekend of scouting and fun.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve Weiss".

Steve Weiss,
Troop 728 Committee Chairman



September 3, 2004

Linda Salle
Columbia County Forests, Parks, and Recreation Department
Columbia county Courthouse
1054 Oregon Street
St. Helens, OR 97051
503-397-2353
Fax: 503-397-7257

Re: Activities at Camp Wilkerson on October 8 – 10, 2004

Linda,

Attached are the BSA policies, procedures, and rules governing the tomahawk/knife throwing, ax yard, and rope bridge activities that we will follow to the letter during our camping at Camp Wilkerson. Adult leaders that have been specifically trained in these disciplines will be staffing these activities. The leaders in attendance have run these activities many times in the past at District Camporees, Scoutrageous, and troop campouts. In addition to the printed BSA policies, we will enforce these addition rules:

1. At the tomahawk throw there will be 5 trained Rangemasters present at Camp Wilkerson. A trained Rangemaster (adult over age 21) will manage the range of 4 throwers (1:4 ratio). Two assistant Rangemasters (youth/adult over age 16), will also be working the range, one each at Entrance / Exit Gate.
2. The rope bridge will be part of the obstacle course. Only one scout will be allowed on the rope bridge at a time. This results in a 1:1 ratio of adult supervision to scout.
3. Only scouts who have earned and show a Totin Chip will be allowed in the ax yard.
4. All activities will be open only during competition. No one will be allowed in these areas when there is no adult supervision. All equipment will be secured when not in use.

If you have any questions, you can contact me at:

Steve Weiss
4174 NW 179th Place
Portland, OR 97229
503-629-5341 Fax: 503-645-2337
sweiss@ipns.com

CERTIFICATE NO:
3070

CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE

ISSUE DATE (MM/DD/YY)
July 16, 2004

PRODUCER
LIBERTY MUTUAL
P.O. BOX 152067
IRVING, TEXAS 75015-2067

THIS CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED AS A MATTER OF INFORMATION ONLY AND CONFERS NO RIGHTS UPON THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER THAN THOSE PROVIDED IN THE POLICY. THIS CERTIFICATE DOES NOT AMEND, EXTEND OR ALTER THE COVERAGE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES BELOW.

COMPANIES AFFORDING COVERAGE

- COMPANY LETTER A LIBERTY MUTUAL
- COMPANY LETTER B
- COMPANY LETTER C
- COMPANY LETTER D
- COMPANY LETTER E

INSURED

Cascade Pacific Council
Boy Scouts of America
2145 SW Naito Parkway
Portland, OR 97201

COVERAGE

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE POLICIES OF INSURANCE LISTED BELOW HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO THE INSURED NAMED ABOVE FOR THE POLICY PERIOD INDICATED, NOTWITHSTANDING ANY REQUIREMENT, TERM OR CONDITION OF ANY CONTRACT OR OTHER DOCUMENT WITH RESPECT TO WHICH THIS CERTIFICATE MAY BE ISSUED OR MAY PERTAIN, THE INSURANCE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES DESCRIBED HEREIN IS SUBJECT TO ALL THE TERMS, EXCLUSIONS AND CONDITIONS OF SUCH POLICIES. LIMITS SHOWN MAY HAVE BEEN REDUCED BY PAID CLAIMS.

CO. LTR.	TYPE OF INSURANCE	POLICY NUMBER	POLICY EFFECTIVE DATE (MM/DD/YY)	POLICY EXPIRATION DATE (MM/DD/YY)	LIMITS
	<input type="checkbox"/> GENERAL LIABILITY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY <input type="checkbox"/> CLAIMS MADE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUR <input type="checkbox"/> OWNER'S CONTRACTOR'S PROT.	TBI-191-409751-124	3/1/2004	3/1/2005	GENERAL AGGREGATE PRODUCTS-COMP/OPS AGGREGATE PERSONAL ADVERTISING INJURY EACH OCCURRENCE \$1,000,000 FIRE DAMAGE MEDICAL EXPENSE
	<input type="checkbox"/> AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY <input type="checkbox"/> ANY AUTO <input type="checkbox"/> ALL OWNED AUTOS <input type="checkbox"/> HIRED AUTOS <input type="checkbox"/> NON-OWNED AUTOS				COMBINED SINGLE LIMIT BODILY INJURY (Per person) BODILY INJURY (Per accident) PROPERTY DAMAGE
	<input type="checkbox"/> EXCESS LIABILITY <input type="checkbox"/> UMBRELLA FORM <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER THAN UMBRELLA FORM				EACH OCCURRENCE AGGREGATE
	<input type="checkbox"/> WORKER'S COMPENSATION AND EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY				STATUTORY EACH ACCIDENT (DISEASE-POLICY LIMIT) (DISEASE-EACH EMPLOYEE)
	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER				

COLUMBIA COUNTY
JUL 20 2004
FORESTS, PARKS & RECREATION

DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS / LOCATIONS / VEHICLES / SPECIAL ITEMS

THIS CERTIFICATE APPLIES ONLY TO OFFICIAL SCOUTING ACTIVITIES
 Certificate covers use of Camp Wilkerson by Sunset Trail District to hold Scout competition October 8-10, 2004. Columbia County, its officers, agents and employees are additional insureds, ~~only for negligence related to this official Scouting activity.~~

CERTIFICATE HOLDER

Columbia County Parks and Recreation

1054 Oregon St.

St. Helens, OR 97051

CANCELLATION

SHOULD ANY OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED POLICIES BE CANCELLED BEFORE THE EXPIRATION DATE THEREOF, THE INSURER AFFORDING COVERAGE WILL ENDEAVOR TO MAIL 30 DAYS WRITTEN NOTICE TO THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER NAMED TO THE LEFT, BUT FAILURE TO MAIL SUCH NOTICE SHALL IMPOSE NO OBLIGATION OR LIABILITY OF ANY KIND UPON THE INSURER AFFORDING COVERAGE, ITS AGENTS OR REPRESENTATIVES, OR THE ISSUER OF THIS CERTIFICATE.

BY:

W. P. Collins
William P. Collins, Liberty Mutual

HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT is by and between Boy Scout Troop 728, hereinafter referred to as "Permittee", and Columbia County, a political subdivision of the State of Oregon, hereinafter referred to as "County".

In consideration of the permission given by County for Permittee to use the County's facilities at WILKERSON CAMP GROUNDS,

on October 8-10, 2004, for the purpose of Boy Scout Camping and Scout Competition

Permittee agrees to release, defend, indemnify and hold harmless the County, its officers, agents and employees, successors and assigns from all claims, suits, actions, liability, damage, loss, cost or expense, including but not limited to attorneys fees, that the County, its officers, agents and employees, successors and assigns may sustain or incur on account of: (1) any damage to or destruction of any property that the County may own or in which it may have an interest; (2) any damage to or destruction of any property belonging to any other person, firm or corporation; and (3) injury to or death of any person or persons; as a result of any errors or omissions or other negligent, reckless or intentionally wrongful acts of Permittee, its officers, agents and employees, members and/or invited guests arising in any manner out of Permittee's use of such facilities.

In addition, Permittee agrees to provide a certificate of insurance in an amount equal to the Tort Claims Act limits (ORS 30.270) to Columbia County naming the County, its officers, agents and employees as additional insureds and promising to give at least ten (10) days written notice prior to cancellation, expiration, renewal or material changes of said policy.

Boy Scout Troop 728 (Name of Organization) (503) 629-5341 (Phone)
2800 NW 153rd Ave, Beaverton, OR 97006 (Address)

By: Steven Weiss
(Signature of Authorized Representative)

By: _____
(Second Signature, if required)

Name: Steven Weiss
(Printed Name of Authorized Rep.)

Name: _____
(Printed Name)

Date: July 15, 2004

Date: _____

Knife and Tomahawk Throwing Policies

Cascade Pacific Council - Boy Scouts of America

1. Purpose

- a. To establish standard procedures for operating a tomahawk and knife throwing range.

2. References

- a. Boy Scout Handbook
- b. Boy Scout Safety Guidelines
- c. National Camporee Guide Book

3. Personnel

- a. Operation of a range requires a Range Master Officer and one Assistant Range Officer per each set of four throwing stations per station type (hawk or knife). For example, a four throwing station hawk range requires two people to operate the range. A four station hawk range plus a four station knife range would require a minimum of three people to operate the range. A five station hawk range plus a four station knife range would require a minimum of four people to operate the range. If the knife and hawk ranges are separated, then it will be required that there be a separate Range Master Officer for each range.

b. Range Master Officer

- i. Has overall responsibility for the safe operation of the range
- ii. Directs and supervises assistant range officer(s)
- iii. Must be an adult (21 years of age or older)
- iv. Has had experience operating a knife or tomahawk range
- v. Understands and agrees to operate the range using the procedures outlined in this document

c. Assistant Range Officer

- i. Has responsibility to manage a throwing line of no more than four throwers
- ii. Is responsible for providing instruction to throwers before first throw for each round
- iii. Is responsible for keeping all throwers at their stations until releasing them to retrieve or to leave the area.
- iv. May be an older youth (16 years of age at a minimum)

- d. When referring the range personnel in the document, a range officer is either a Range Master Officer or a Range Assistant Officer. A range Master Officer may also be referred to as a Range Master.

4. Persons Authorized To Throw Knives Or Tomahawks.

- a. Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, Venturers, and adults may throw knives and tomahawks. Cub Scout or younger age youth are not permitted to throw knives or tomahawks.
- b. All throwers must have the physical strength and manual dexterity required to safely throw. If a range officer is uncertain of a thrower's ability, the range officer may test the participant, or may make other arrangements to ensure that the thrower, other participants, and the range remain safe.
- c. All throwers are responsible for handling the knives and tomahawks in a safe manner, which includes following the instructions of the range personnel.
- d. Any thrower behaving in an unsafe manner may be removed from the range by any one of the range personnel.

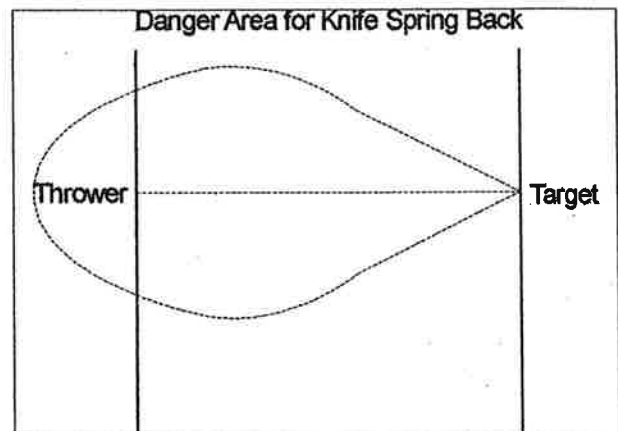
5. Authorized Throwing Equipment

a. Knives

i. Types of Knives

1. large blade with formed handled knives
 - a. sheath knives
 - b. blade is generally thicker
 - c. handle is thicker than the blade, often at least three times thicker
 - d. does not exhibit a spring nature when flexed
2. forged or thick throwing knives
 - a. has a tang that is approximately the size of the blade
 - b. generally sharp only on the tip
 - c. usually balanced near the mid point of the knife
 - d. does not exhibit a spring nature when flexed
 - e. knives with blades approximately 3/16" to 1/4" or greater thickness
3. large blade with small or no handle (the tang is what the thrower holds, but there is no handle wrapped over the tang or the handle is small relative to the length of the blade)
 - a. chef knives without handles
 - b. knives with blades thinner than 1/8"
4. Other throwing objects
 - a. specialty knives
 - b. throwing stars
 - c. other Martial Arts devices designed to be thrown

- ii. The only authorized throwing knives are of types 1, 2, and 3 of section 5.a.i. Objects of type 4 in section 5.a.i are not permitted at any event.
- iii. Knives of type 3 have a greater likelihood of springing back to the thrower and all knives of this type must be tested by the range officers before they may be used in the event. Testing should involve a minimum of 10 throws where the knife is thrown to be slightly under range (i.e., the knife has not completed its rotation), which is the case where maximum spring back to the thrower would occur. If the knife springs back more than one third the distances from the thrower to the target, the knife should not be used.
- iv. All knives are to be inspected by the range personnel and sharpened before use in the event. Periodic re-inspection should occur based on the conditions of the throwing event (ground surface, misses by throwers, knives striking another knife on the target, etc.).



b. Tomahawks

i. Types of Tomahawks

1. Cast Head, Wooden Handle
2. Forged Head, Wooden Handle
3. Plate head welded to metal pipe handle
4. Hatchet
5. Single Bit Axe
6. Double Bit Axe

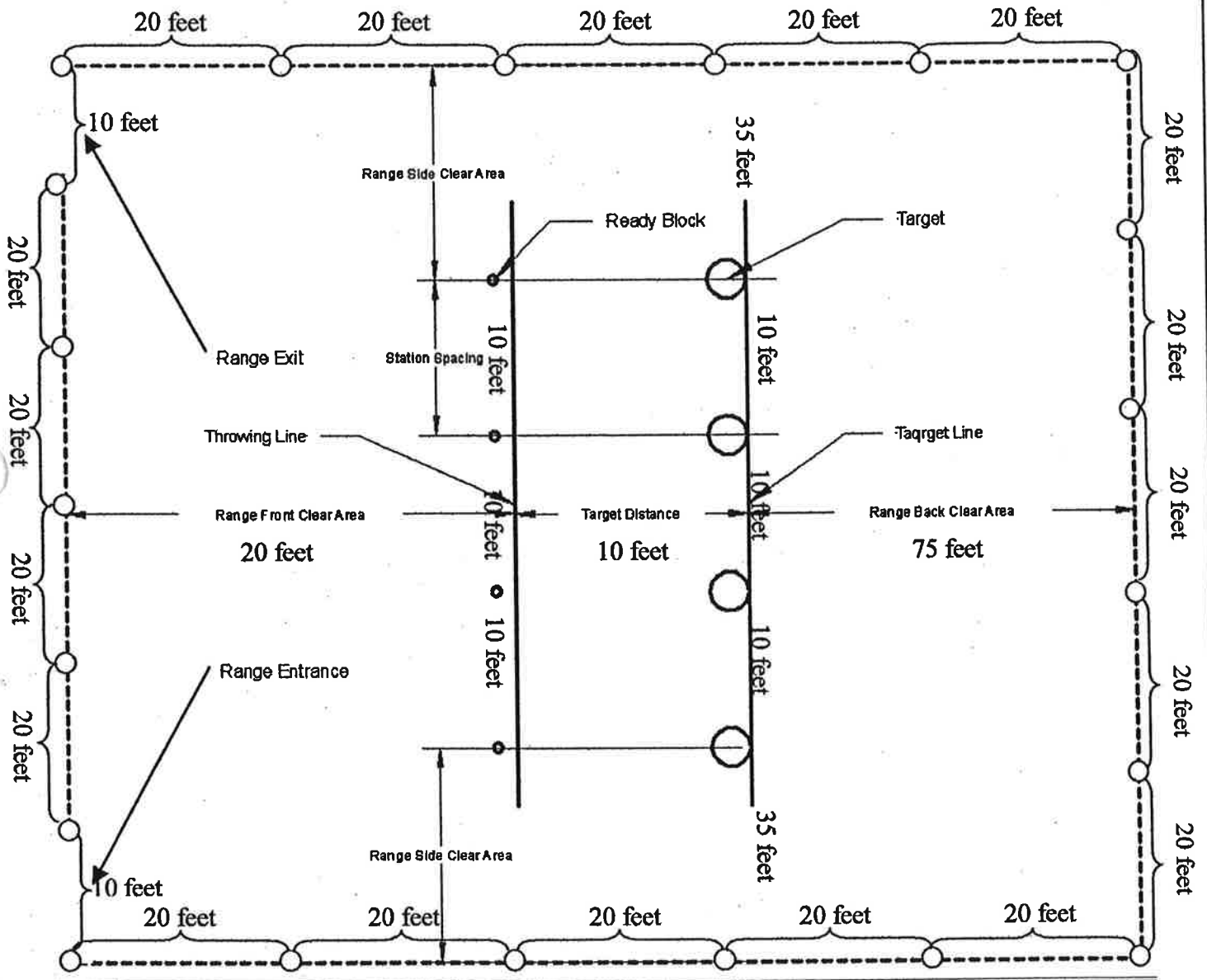
- ii. The only authorized throwing tomahawks are of types 1, 2, and 3 of section 5.b.i. Objects of type 4, 5, or 6 of section 5.b.i are not permitted to be thrown at any event.
 - iii. It is recommended that only tomahawks with wooden handles that slide into the head be used as this type is easier to keep the head tight against the handle. While tomahawks of type 3 in section 5.b.i (plate head welded to metal pipe handle) will not loosen, there is a greater chance for damage to blade surfaces when thrown, should a blade strike a handle of a previous thrown tomahawk.
 - iv. All tomahawks are to be inspected by the range personnel and sharpened before use in the event. Periodic re-inspection should occur based on the conditions of the throwing event (ground surface, misses by throwers, tomahawk striking another tomahawk on the target, etc.).
 - v. Tomahawk handles should be free of splinters and splits. A handle may be wrapped with duct tape, electrical tape, or other such heavy tape if the handle becomes damaged but can be made serviceable and remain safe to use. Handles that are split or will not hold the head must be retired from service.
- c. Approved knives and tomahawks are to be provided by the range personnel coordinating the activity whenever possible. While it is desired that all of the equipment used in the event be supplied as such, it is recognized that events such as camporees may draw equipment from a number of individuals. Participants with personal knives or tomahawks may request permission to use their personal equipment. It must be recognized by the range personnel that participants may have personal equipment in any condition from better than the provided equipment in the event to completely unsafe. Permission to use any knife or tomahawk in an event is up to the discretion of the range personnel. Inspection of the equipment by the range personnel is required before it can be used in the event. It is recommended that all of the range personnel be present during the inspection and review of the participant's equipment.

6. Range Layout

- a. Range layout must conform to the local site and local conditions.
- b. Natural physical barriers (if available) are recommended to be used for the range borders.
- c. The guidelines outlined in this document are the minimum requirements.
- d. Stations shall be placed along a throwing line, targets placed along a target line. All stations under the supervision of a range master should be along the same line. If there are stations placed such that there is not a single throwing line, or they are spaced far enough apart that the range master does not have a clear view of the entire area for which the range master is responsible, the range should be split into separate ranges and a separate range master placed in charge of each split area.
- e. Minimum Dimensions for a Knife range (see figure following)
 - i. Station Spacing – 10 feet
 - ii. Target Distance – approximately 10 feet
 - iii. Range Front Clear Area – 20 feet
 - iv. Range Side Clear Area – 30 feet
 - v. Range Back Clear Area – 45 feet
 - vi. Distance to a Knife Range – 20 feet
 - vii. Distance to a Tomahawk Range – 40 feet

f. Minimum Dimensions for a Tomahawk range (see figure following)

- i. Station Spacing – 10 feet
- ii. Target Distance – approximately 10 feet
- iii. Range Front Clear Area – 20 feet
- iv. Range Side Clear Area – 30 feet
- v. Range back Clear Area – 75 feet
- vi. Distance to a Tomahawk Range – 20 feet
- vii. Distance to a Knife Range – 40 feet



- g. Range Entrance and Exit should be positioned away from the throwing direction. Side entrances are discouraged unless they are in the corner of the Range Front Area. Entrances and Exits should be separated. No one is permitted to enter or exit the range without the permission of a range officer.

- h. All ranges must have the boundaries clearly marked with rope, cord, or other visible material, such as Caution tape. Rope and cord should have highly visible flagging tape affixed at frequent intervals to enhance the visibility of the boundary. Boundary lines should have sufficient posts or supports to ensure the boundary remains in place for the duration of the station under all weather conditions. The boundary should be inspected regularly to ensure it is in place and undamaged. Boundaries should be set approximately three feet off the ground and supports should be at intervals not to exceed twenty five (25) feet. Objects in the area, such as trees or fences may be used as boundaries, provided the access to the throwing area is controlled.
- i. Backstops are recommended for all ranges, but are not required. A backstop does not diminish the Range Back Clear Area requirement.
- j. Targets should be end grain cut logs (also known as rounds) or end grain blocks securely fixed together. Targets must be securely fastened to stands or supports so that they will be able to withstand the force of the knife or tomahawk that is throw at it. Tripod stands are recommended for use where setup and removal is required. Fixed (posts set in the ground) throwing targets or stands are recommended for longer term event stations. In all cases, the stands must be sturdy, well constructed and maintained for safety and functionality.
- k. When targets are to be used for scoring purposes, a set of concentric circles should be painted on the target. Targets may be painted with shapes other than circles provided that the object painted would be acceptable under the guidelines of the Boy Scouts of America. Under no circumstances is a human figure or any part of a human figure permitted to be a target. Other permitted targets are playing cards, paper plates, paper targets, balloons, etc. Targets should be easily pierced with the knife or tomahawk and should be fastened to the round using materials which will not adversely harm the thrown devices.
- l. All throwing stations should have a small table or round set on end where the knives or hawks may be laid between throws. Knives and tomahawks should never be stuck into this temporary device.
- m. All throwing stations should be kept clear of objects that may cause a participant to trip or fall. Throwing lines should be level and free of outcropping roots or rocks.
- n. The throwing line is a guideline as the thrower may take a step forward when throwing, or may be back a step from other throwers. As long as the thrower is within this approximate range throwing may continue. If at any time a thrower is excessively far from the line, throwing should cease and the range officer direct the thrower to a safer position.
- o. When the knife or tomahawk area is closed, all knives and tomahawks are to be securely stored in a locked area. It is recommended that all knives and tomahawks have blade guards in place during transport to and from storage. All knives and tomahawks should be inspected prior to storage and after removal from storage. Any found unfit for use should be clearly marked or moved so that they will not be used until they can be made fit for use.

7. Operation Of The Range.

a. Range Commands

- i. Range command for Knife and Tomahawk ranges are to be the same.
- ii. Range commands are to be spoken clearly and loudly. All participants are to be given a review of the range commands to be used before any throwing can begin.
- iii. Range commands are of two types, those that concern a group and those that pertain to the entire range. Range commands that control the entire range should be acknowledged be every member of the range personnel. For example, if one of the range personnel declares Range Closed, all other range personnel should respond with Range Closed.
- iv. Range Commands must be spoken clearly and in the direction of the participants.
- v. Range personnel controlling adjacent ranges must coordinate their group commands to ensure the range remains safe.

vi. The following are the basic range commands.

1. Commence Throwing
 - a. Group Command
 - b. Gives permission to the group to start throwing
2. Cease Throwing
 - a. Group Command
 - b. Tells all participants to stop throwing immediately
3. Range Open
 - a. Entire Range Command
 - b. Declares that the range is considered safe to proceed to throwing stage, but does not give permission to throw.
4. Range Closed
 - a. Entire Range Command
 - b. Declares the range is closed for throwing. All throwing must cease. This command may be given with or without a preceding or following Cease Throwing command. It is recommended that Cease Throwing command be given in conjunction with the Range Closed command whenever possible.
5. Retrieve your hawks
 - a. Group Command
 - b. Tells all participants that they may retrieve their tomahawks from the target area. This command must be coordinated with adjacent ranges to ensure that one group is not throwing while another is retrieving.
6. Retrieve your knives
 - a. Group Command
 - b. Tells all participants that they may retrieve their knives from the target area. This command must be coordinated with adjacent ranges to ensure that one group is not throwing while another is retrieving.
7. Exit Range
 - a. Group Command
 - b. Tells all participants to exit the range

b. Knives:

- i. Only authorized knives may be used for throwing.
- ii. All knives will be thrown by the handle only.
- iii. The only authorized throw is a single knife in an overhand throw, not sideways, underhand or any other method, nor any multiple knives at the same time throws.
- iv. No one will step over the throwing line until given permission by the range officer in charge of a set of throwing stations. Range officers of adjacent stations must coordinate their stations activities so that all participants keep clear of the throwing area while any station is still throwing.
- v. Any violation of the rules, commands, or safe handling of the knives may result in the immediate removal of the participant from the range.
- vi. Any range officer has the discretion to remove anyone at any time for any reason from the range.
- vii. Safety is the most important factor in the operation of the range and anything that detracts from it is cause for immediate action to correct the concern.
- viii. Knives will be aimed only at the designated target. If the event involves objects on the target (such as playing cards on the round), there must be separate objects and a separate target for each participant. Objects on the target are to be such that the knife will not be caused to react in an unsafe manner when the object is struck by the knife in any manner.
- ix. No one is permitted to enter or leave the range without the permission of a range officer.

- x. A throwing session shall consist of the following steps**
1. Before a group of participants may enter the range, the area is clear and participants are waiting outside the site.
 2. The range officers verify that the range is ready to receive participants. All deficiencies are to be corrected before any participants enter the area.
 3. Participants are given permission to enter. The participants are instructed to walk to the open stations. Participants should leave any extra gear away from the throwing station.
 4. A check for left handed throwers is to be made. Any left handed throwers are to be moved to the left stations of the throwing area. All right handed throwers are to be on the right stations of the throwing area. Under no circumstances should a left handed thrower be to the right of a right handed thrower.
 5. All throwers are to be reminded that all knives are to be left on the block before them until they are given permission to throw.
 6. Using an end throwing station, the range officer instructs the throwers as to the proper and permitted technique for throwing. Regardless of the claimed ability of the participant, the participants must listen as the rules and techniques are reviewed.
 - a. Throwing is very much like throwing a baseball
 - b. The stance used is at the discretion of the thrower. Some throwers prefer to stand with both feet fixed in place during the throw; others prefer to take a step, some leading with the right foot, others with the left. There is no single correct or preferred way.
 - c. Grip the knife as you would grip a plate, fingers not curled under the handle, but down the side, thumb to the opposite side. The grip should be firm. The throw is not performed by turning or flicking the wrist, but rather by moving the arm in a sweeping arc using the shoulder and the elbow.
 - d. Raise the knife vertically and slightly to the back in a steady manner. Do not raise it quickly or stop sharply on the uptake as neither of these will help the throw and either will cause the throw to be off considerably. Remind the throwers to keep a firm grip on the knife at all times
 - e. Once the knife is raised, pause and then bring the knife forward in a motion much like throwing a baseball. Release the knife when the hand is aiming at the target. Follow through on the throw by keeping the hand aimed toward the target.
 - f. If the knife does not hit and stick (point into the target) adjust the throwing position rather than adjusting the way the knife was thrown. If the knife was over rotated (the handle is above the point when it strikes the target, move closer to the target. If the knife is under rotated (the handle is below the point when it strikes the target, move away from the target.
 7. After all participants understand the rules and techniques, the range officer can give permission to commence throwing. Throwers are to throw one knife at a time, however all throwers may throw at the same time.
 8. When all throwers have thrown all of their knives, the throwers must wait for permission from the range officer before retrieving the knives. Retrieved knives are to be placed carefully flat down on the block at the throwing line. Knives are not to be placed point down or stuck into the block at the throwing line.
 9. A throwing session should consist of a practice round to give the throwers a chance to adjust their throwing distance. Rounds that count toward points are at the discretion of the event.

10. After all rounds in a throwing session are complete, the range officer gives permission to leave the range, reminding the participants to collect all belongings. New participants are not permitted to enter the range until the previous group has completely exited.

c. Tomahawks:

- i. Only authorized tomahawks may be used for throwing.
- ii. All tomahawks will be thrown by the handle only.
- iii. The only authorized throw is a single tomahawk in an overhand throw, not sideways, underhand or any other method, nor any multiple knives at the same time throws.
- iv. No one will step over the throwing line until given permission by the range officer in charge of a set of throwing stations. Range officers of adjacent stations must coordinate their stations activities so that all participants keep clear of the throwing area while any station is still throwing.
- v. Any violation of the rules, commands, or safe handling of the tomahawks may result in the immediate removal of the participant from the range.
- vi. Any range officer has the discretion to remove anyone at any time for any reason from the range.
- vii. Safety is the most important factor in the operation of the range and anything that detracts from it is cause for immediate action to correct the concern.
- viii. Tomahawks will be aimed only at the designated target. If the event involves objects on the target (such as playing cards on the round), there must be separate objects and a separate target for each participant. Objects on the target are to be such that the knife will not be caused to react in an unsafe manner when the object is struck by the knife in any manner.
- ix. No one is permitted to enter or leave the range without the permission of a range officer.
- x. A throwing session shall consist of the following steps
 1. Before a group of participants may enter the range, the area is clear and participants are waiting outside the site.
 2. The range officers verify that the range is ready to receive participants. All deficiencies are to be corrected before any participants enter the area.
 3. Participants are given permission to enter. The participants are instructed to walk to the open stations. Participants should leave any extra gear away from the throwing station.
 4. A check for left handed throwers is to be made. Any left handed throwers are to be moved to the left stations of the throwing area. All right handed throwers are to be on the right stations of the throwing area. Under no circumstances should a left handed thrower be to the right of a right handed thrower.
 5. All throwers are to be reminded that all tomahawks are to be left on the block before them until they are given permission to throw.
 6. Using an end throwing station, the range officer instructs the throwers as to the proper and permitted technique for throwing. Regardless of the claimed ability of the participant, the participants must listen as the rules and techniques are reviewed.
 - a. Throwing is very much like throwing a baseball
 - b. The stance used is at the discretion of the thrower. Some throwers prefer to stand with both feet fixed in place during the throw; others prefer to take a step, some leading with the right foot, others with the left. There is no single correct or preferred way.

- c. Grip the tomahawk as you would grip a hammer, fingers not curled under the handle, but down the side, thumb to the opposite side. The grip should be firm. The throw is not performed by turning or flicking the wrist, but rather by moving the arm in a sweeping arc using the shoulder and the elbow.
 - d. To begin a throw, point the tomahawk toward the target. Raise the tomahawk vertically and slightly to the back in a steady manner without fully bending the elbow. Do not raise it quickly or stop sharply as neither of these will help the throw and either will cause the throw to be off considerably. Inform the throwers to keep a firm grip on the tomahawk at all times
 - e. Once the tomahawk is raised, pause and then bring the tomahawk forward in a motion much like throwing a baseball. Release the tomahawk when the hand is aiming at the target. Follow through on the throw by keeping the hand aimed toward the target. Take care not to twist or flick the wrist as this may cause the tomahawk to travel with too much spin or it may have a sideways twist.
 - f. Power and speed are not required to throw or stick the tomahawk. Tomahawks will naturally turn in flight to the target and increases in speed or power add to the difficulty in controlling the throw, not to the accuracy of the throw. The greatest motion is in the shoulder, then the elbow and least in the wrist.
 - g. If the tomahawk does not hit and stick (point into the target) adjust the throwing position rather than adjusting the way the tomahawk was thrown. If the tomahawk was over rotated (the handle is above the point when it strikes the target, move closer to the target. If the tomahawk is under rotated (the handle is below the point when it strikes the target, move away from the target.
7. After all participants understand the rules and techniques, the range officer can give permission to commence throwing. Throwers are to throw one tomahawk at a time, however all throwers may throw at the same time.
 8. When all throwers have thrown all of their tomahawks, the throwers must wait for permission from the range officer before retrieving the tomahawks. Retrieved tomahawks are to be placed carefully flat down on the block at the throwing line. Tomahawks are not to be placed point down or stuck into the block at the throwing line.
 9. The range officer should inspect any tomahawk whose head has become loose. Additionally, if a handle and head are completely separated, the range officer and not the thrower is to reassemble the tomahawk. Handles of tomahawks are to be periodically inspected for splits, splinters, nicks, and cuts. If damage to a handle of head can not be easily repaired, the tomahawk is to be removed from use until it is repaired.
 10. A throwing session should consist of a practice round to give the throwers a chance to adjust their throwing distance. Rounds that count toward points are at the discretion of the event.
 11. After all rounds in a throwing session are complete, the range officer gives permission to leave the range, reminding the participants to collect all belongings. New participants are not permitted to enter the range until the previous group has completely exited.

8. Training

- a. Operation of a range requires training. All range personnel are to be trained before any range can be opened for participants.
- b. Training shall consist of two parts
 - i. Review and understanding of the Knife and Tomahawk Throwing Policies and Procedures (this document).
 1. Range Masters must participate in an organized training session and receive a certificate of training before they are permitted by council to operate a range. This training shall be known as Safe Throwing Training (see section following).
 2. Experienced Range Masters may train other Range Masters provided it is done in an organized training session.
 3. Organized training session shall consist of a thorough review of the Knife and Tomahawk Throwing Policies and Procedures (this document).
 4. Assistant Range Officers are to be trained by a trained Range Master..
 - ii. Review of the range and equipment at the time of the event.
 1. Each range and group throwing area is different. All range personnel should be familiar with all aspects of the range and group throwing areas.
 2. Specific range duties should be discussed and agreed to by all range personnel before the range is opened.
 3. Range Command should be reviewed before the range is opened.

9. Safe Throwing Training

- a. Safe Throwing Training is intended for all personnel who will be involved in operating and tomahawk or knife throwing range, either for a unit, district, council, camp or other level activity.
- b. Safe Throwing Training has the following key elements:
 1. Qualified Supervision
 - a. All throwing activities are to be supervised by a Range Master Officer who must be a trained, mature, and conscientious adult twenty one (21) years of age or older.
 - b. Each group of four throwing stations must be staffed by a trained, mature, and conscientious Range Assistant Officer who must be sixteen (16) years of age or older
 2. Ability
 - a. All throwers must have the physical strength and manual dexterity required to safely throw.
 3. Equipment
 - a. All equipment used on the range must be regularly inspected and in safe working condition.
 4. Discipline
 - a. All participants should know and understand the rules and procedures for a safe throwing activity. Rules for safety do not interfere with fun when fairly applied
 5. Range Layout
 - a. The throwing range must be arranged for the safety of the participants and the spectators. Careful review of the site, natural physical barriers, and traffic patterns is necessary both before and during the operation of the event.
 - b. A safe range is a fun range, because more throwers can participate and more people can watch.

BSA Policy on Rope Monkey Bridges

When constructing monkey bridges, observe the following safety rules:

1. Always follow the steps for constructing monkey bridges outlined in the *Pioneering* merit badge pamphlet.
 2. Before beginning the project, inspect your rope, looking at both the inside fibers and inner strands. Know the size and strength of the type of rope you are using, and its safe working load.
 3. Monkey bridges should not be constructed higher than 6 feet above flat-surfaced ground nor longer than 40 feet. Initially, beginners should not span more than 25 feet.
 4. Know the effect the knots will have in reducing rope strength and the proper care that rope requires.
 5. Rope, especially rope carrying a load, should be checked each day before using. Rope carrying a load and left in place tends to become slack from fatigue and will break under stress. Tighten rope as necessary to maintain the integrity of the original construction.
 6. Exercise special care when members of the public are allowed to use these monkey bridges. Establish controls when monkey bridges are constructed outside the camp environment. Station Scouts at each end to control access to the bridge. Allow only one person at a time on the bridge. Never allow unaccompanied children on the bridge. Shut down the bridge when any repairs are being made and do not reopen until the adult leader has approved the repairs.
 7. Any activity on rope swings, monkey bridges, slide-for-life, or similar devices that are located over water must comply with Safe Swim Defense.
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Ax Yard Policy

Select an area that is free of brush and branches that is at least 20 feet wide and 20 feet long. Rope off the area to limit access, leaving an entrance.

Only one person is allowed in the ax yard at a time.

Ask permission to enter the ax yard.

Only enter the ax yard to chop and saw wood.

Clean up chips, bark, and other debris of cutting when you are finished.

Read and understand woods tools use and safety rules from the *Boy Scout Handbook*.
