

Knots:

We are going to tackle knots a little differently this year as a trial.

We should ensure that Cubs understand the various terminology for parts of a rope while making a knot, such as a bight, the standing end and the working end. This confuses me to no end. The working end of the rope, to me, should be the end that will work, hold the load or whatever, but it's not - it's the end that will finally be standing around when you're done. Now the so called 'standing end', this is the end that is actually attached to the load, and it should not move as you tie the knot - or so they say.

A 'bight', being a narrow loop, or maybe not so narrow - depends on the knot. By definition, the bight can also simply be the middle part of the rope. In all my time spent at Cubs, we have never reviewed any of this terminology.

The Cub Book identifies seven knots. These seven knots we need to teach the Cubs as a minimum. I have added to these seven, the Fisherman, the Square Lashing, and Pole Lashing with Reef Knots. Knots are going to be classified as Level 1, 2, 3 and 4 knots. Each Cub must be proficient at each level before proceeding to the next level. We need to practice knots for a short duration each meeting in order for Cubs to maintain their proficiency level.

Level 1 Knots

Reef Knot
Clove Hitch

Level 2 Knots

Sheet Bend
Fisherman's
Bowline

Level 3 Knots

Tautline Hitch
Round Turn and Two Half Hitches
Square Lashing

Level 4 Knots

Pole Lashing with Reef Knots