HOW TO USE WOODS TOOLS

1. Cut down small dead trees or cut off large branches with a bow saw.
2. Trim limbs from your live trees with a hand ax or larger ax. Stand on opposite side of limb or trunk.
3. Cut tree trunk into firewood lengths with a bow saw.
4. Cut up smaller branches with hand ax, using contact method and cutting on an angle.
5. Split larger pieces of firewood with an ax by placing them against a chopping log. Keep hands low and feel pressure behind the chopping log.
6. Use contact method to split wood into kindling.
7. Make kindling from kindling to speed up fire starting.
8. To carry an ax safely, hold handle next to head with bit facing out and down. Carry hand ax with hand around head, handle down, and tilt to rear.
9. Learn to pass an ax safely. Hold handle near knob with head down, and pass to other person with bit facing out at right angles between you. He takes firm grip on handle just below your hand and says “thank you” so let you know he has it.
10. A sharp ax is a safe, efficient woods tool. Learn to sharpen yours correctly as shown here or in your Nipmuc Bay Scout Handbook. Make sure that your ax is held firmly in pace before you begin to sharpen it. Hold file and sharpening stone properly to avoid any possible accidents.
11. Keep woods tools covered or sheathed when they are not in use. Axes may be stuck in log or with the handle running up the log. Axes should be covered with cloth or an old piece of garden hose.