

Welcome, Chief, to a 'hands on adventure' that will be both satisfying to your boys and to you! Your young men will discover new skills that will be useful but also a little more about themselves, that which builds confidence. Take your crew on an exciting journey, making each meeting as special as you can!

The Journeymen 'Kit' includes five instructional lessons covering rope care, knots, and lashings. Lesson six is a review and the back page contains the "Skill Evaluation" which gives your boys the opportunity to demonstrate they have adequately learned their lessons. The pace is up to you, your boys, and the circumstances of your meetings. Ideally, you will complete in 9 or 10 sessions, though more time is acceptable (perhaps for additional review.) Just do all you can to avoid disruptions to your progress. Church functions and other events may require 'time-outs' but encourage your boys to practice their knots often. You may allow them to carry line home with them. But much better is to have them use a shoelace so your rope doesn't 'forget' to come back next meeting!

The illustrations in the Kits should be adequate for teaching the knots. But additional steps can be found at the following web pages, as well as very useful notes on a variety of things pertaining to rope usage and care that you may study for yourself. The more you know, the more your boys will grow!

**Steps For Tying Lesson Knots and Doing Activities:** Save this page onto your computer. Then, while connected to the internet, click on each of these illustrations to see step-by-step instructions:

Lesson 1: [Coiling Unattached Rope](#)

[Attach to a Cleat](#)

[Coil to a Cleat](#)

Lesson 3: [Spanish Bowline](#)

[Emergency Harness](#)

Lesson 4: [Round Lashing](#)

[Shear Lashing](#)

[Tripod Lashing](#)

Lesson 5: [Square Lashing](#)

[Diagonal Lashing](#)

**Knot and Rope Safety:** [\[Click Here\]](#)

**Knot Terminology:** [\[Click Here\]](#)

**Rope Care:** The line handling instructions here are a part of the Journeymen Skill work and you will also benefit from the important instructions on the care of rope. [\[Click Here\]](#)

## **Special Instructions for Special Sites**

Chief, you are the key man for making your boys' experience enjoyable, enlightening, and equipping! Where your resources may be limited, your enthusiasm and creativity should not be. The ideal situation for teaching to its fullness Rope Skills may not be possible in your location and with the materials available to you. Do your best. Let your attitude be your most important tool! The following suggestions may help: consider them. Then consider your own creative intuition. Your goal must always be 'building lives' – you are a LIFEBUILDER of BOYS. The best way to get the best out of them is to put your best into them!

ROPE: The best line to use will be one that is flexible, of a size easy for their hands to hold, clean, and of sufficient length. It will always help if you don't have to 'buy', but there may be no other choice. It will be best if everything is 'uniform' (sections of rope of same length and type) but every Site will need to consider its options. One length of rope can be shared by several of more boys but you will always want each boy to have an equal opportunity to learn the knots 'hands on'!! Time is saved if more boys can be working at the same time.

For some Sites the ideal may not be a possibility. A heavy twine might have to be used in place of rope. Several sections of rope may need to be tied end-to-end to have a sufficient length, especially for the lashing exercises. You may even have to settle for one 'demonstration line', used mostly by the Chief, to 'show' the boys how it's done. Not the best but at least one step better than just pictures.

STRUCTURES: Of course this is a 'wilderness - outdoor' kind of experience, but bringing tree branches into your church rooms or other meeting place may not be practical. Ideal, but not practical! Try substituting broom or mop handles for your lashing poles. Even pencils (unsharpened is better) with string as your 'rope' will do as a last resort. A boat cleat can be imitated by one boy making fists pressed against each other with thumbs extended out in opposite directions. You can even 'whip' someone's thumb or finger (Lesson 2) but be sure it is done loosely! These few ideas are only meant to encourage your own inventiveness. Do your best with what you have.

TOP – IT – OFF: Because of the extended time needed and physical nature of the learning activity, a Top-It-Off session is normally not a part of these weekly meetings. Be sure that extra rope is available and all boys remain engaged. Participating with the Apprentice boys is acceptable but not likely convenient. Challenge your boys to rehearse their Apprentice knots, increasing precision and speed.

## **Remember Chief: Quality Qualifies!**

It is disheartening when young boys fail to complete requirements or acquire at least the minimum skill necessary to earn an award his peers seem to readily get. But this is one of the 'life lessons', 'growing gifts', of the challenges of Lifebuilder Boys. It will always be acceptable to allow some boys a little extra time to compensate for their special circumstances, but use wisdom and careful discretion – **don't teach procrastination**!! It will be your call: they are clay, but you are the potter! Make them into "vessels of honor." Expect much – get much in return.

