

Pioneer Activity Badge

Learning to tie and build

This activity contributes to the following badges:



Pioneer
Activity Badge

The Wonder of Knots!

The Badge

The Pioneer badge covers learning how to tie knots, lashings, whippings, and splices – and where they can be used in everyday and Scouting life.

Check List

- Take part in an indoor project
- Take part in an outdoor project
- How to whip a rope
- How to splice a rope
- How to coil & store ropes
- Levers and pulleys
- Explain pioneering safety
- Name and tie six knots and three lashings



1 Projects

Indoor pioneering projects generally involve small-scale, lightweight structures. They can be practical, or fun, or both! You might use canes to tie a tripod to support a bowl, or build a small-scale ballista. You could even use skewers or similar to build a scale model of a larger project, such as a bridge or tower.

If doing this at home, bring your family into the team. Teach them what you have learned about knots and lashings, and build your project together.

Outdoor, large-scale projects cannot be reasonably done at home.

2 Whipping

Learn why whipping a rope is important, and investigate various techniques for doing this. Learn and tie a Common, West Coast, or Sailor's Whipping – or another you have found in your research.

3 Splice

Investigate what splicing a rope means. Research and learn a Short Splice and an Eye Splice.

4 Storing

Learn how to coil a rope, and why the direction a rope is coiled matters, depending on its construction. Investigate ways of storing ropes so they don't tangle when not in use.

5 Levers

Learn how and why levers and pulleys work, and show how they can be used to lift or move heavy weights.

6 Safety

Examine the dangers of pioneering – big poles, lots of rope, knots and ropes under tension... How many safety considerations can you think of?

7 Knots & Lashings

Learn how to tie six knots and three lashings (or more!)