

Fieldcraft Projects

The Bamboo Scoop Spoon



The bamboo scoop spoon is a signature project of the Fieldcraft Academy, and it is intended to develop pocketknife skill and confidence while crafting a practical piece of equipment for your fieldcraft kit.

This only tool required for this project is sharp pocketknife. The scoop spoon is carved from a single section of bamboo, split down the middle forming two equal half round halves that can be used to carve two scoop spoons.

Start by cutting off both of the end nodes, forming an open tube of bamboo.

At the widest point of the tube diameter, use the large blade of a pocketknife to begin to split the tube into two equal halves.

Be sure to keep the blade at the 90 degree open angle to prevent damaging the joint and to allow for better control. You should be able to tap the blade with your hand and if the blade seems to get stuck, insert a straight stick into the tube resting on the top of the blade, and tap the stick.



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Once the tube is split into two halves, choose the most symmetric half-round piece to carve your scoop spoon.

Be careful with the edges of the split bamboo, the edges will be sharp.

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Layout your spoon shape and draw it on the interior of the curved section of bamboo. Ensure that you allow at least 1/2 of an inch at the top edge of the scoop end to allow the carving of a symmetric tip. Begin to carve out your spoon making long paring cuts to the handle sides, starting from the scoop end and cutting toward the end of the handle. Make small trimming cuts to round the top of the scoop. The small blade is best for these carving tasks.



Use the large blade to trim the edges of the scoop and the front and rear edges to ensure that they are symmetric and even.

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Once you have achieved the shape that you are satisfied with using your knife to carve the spoon, use one of the blades of your knife at a 90 degree angle to the bottom surface of the scoop spoon to scrape the outer bamboo layer removing. A smooth round rock can be used to smooth the inner surface of the scoop, or sandpaper can be used to smooth all of the edges and surfaces of the entire scoop spoon. A hole can be drilled in the end of the spoon for a lanyard using the reamer/awl tool of the Swiss Army Knife.

The finished spoon can be coated with mineral oil, beeswax, or any food-safe finishing product. Plain lip balm is also very effective for use in coating the surfaces of the scoop spoon. The chosen finishing material should be applied to all of the surfaces, allowing the material to soak into the spoon, and then buffed off using a clean dry cloth.

Your bamboo scoop spoon is now ready for use. It is the perfect scoop to use for eating oatmeal, or other hot cereals, stews, and dehydrated backpacking/trail food.