

# “Knot Safe”

**TOPIC/SUBJECT:** Basic Knot Tying and Usage

**TARGET AUDIENCE/AGE LEVEL:** All Ages

**TIME:** 45 minutes

**THEME:** Knowing how to tie some basic knots could make your boating experience more pleasant.

**GOAL/PURPOSE:** While boating the audience will know when and how to properly tie the knots demonstrated during the program.

**OBJECTIVE:** The audience will be able to demonstrate how to tie and identify their uses for at least three different types of knots used while boating.

## **DESCRIPTION:**

- A. Introduce yourself and your program. Share some experiences that you know of and ask the audience if they have or know of someone that has had a good or bad experience while boating that involved the use of knots.
- B. Pass out pieces of rope. If you don't have enough rope for everyone in the audience have them divide up into small groups and share the rope. Demonstrate to the audience how to tie various knots and explain when the knots should be used.
- C. Have the audience practice tying the knot you are demonstrating before moving to the next knot.
- D. It might be helpful to develop ways to help the audience remember how to tie the knots. For example with the bowline you could tell a story while demonstrating how to tie the knot. The story could go something like this. The ground squirrel comes up out of it's hole (bring the loose end of rope up through the loop), under the log (take the loose end under the rope), then ran back into it's hole (take the loose end of the rope back through the loop), and shut the door (pull the knot tight).
- E. After you have demonstrated the knots you could set up various situations for tying knots and ask someone in the audience to tell you what knot they would use and demonstrate how to tie it.
- F. If time allows possibly ask the audience if anyone knows of any other knots that would be useful while boating. If someone knows of one ask them if they would demonstrate it for the audience.
- G. The illustrations that are included with this program could be used as a handout sheet.

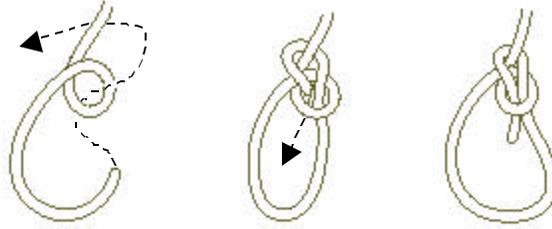
## **SUGGESTED MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT:**

Pieces of rope approximately 18 inches in length

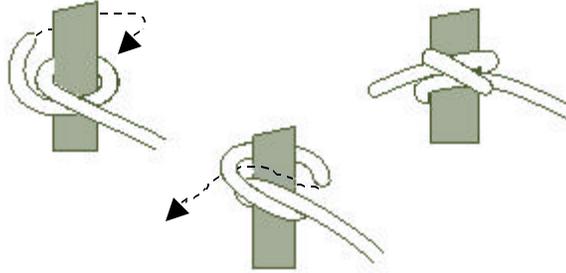
Copies of knot illustration handout

## Basic Knots Used While Boating

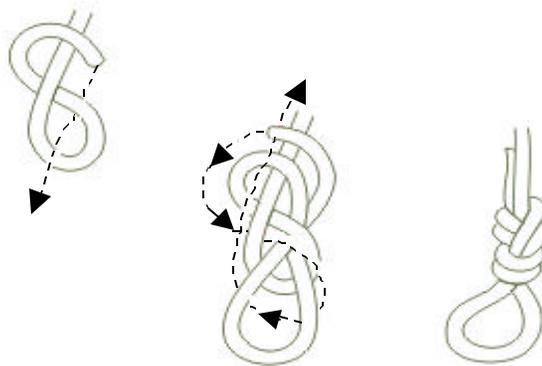
**Bowline Knot:** Used for attaching the anchor line to the anchor or for making a loop in the end of a line.



**Clove Hitch Knot:** Used to secure a line to a piling or pole. This knot should only be used with small boats and as a temporary measure.

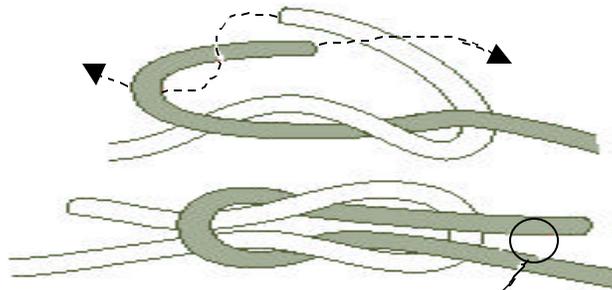


**Figure Eight Knot:** Used as a stopper to prevent a line from slipping through a hole or block.



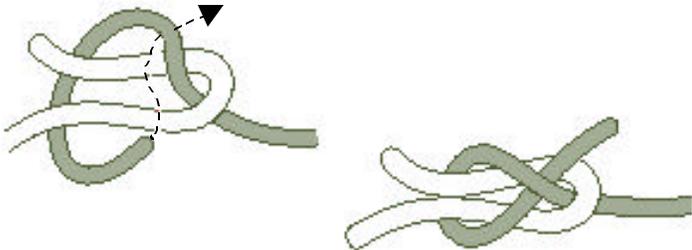
1. Form a figure eight at the end of the rope.
2. Form a loop at the bottom of the figure eight, then retrace the original eight.
3. Pull the knot tight.

**Square Knot:** Used to tie down non-critical items. This knot should not be used to join two ropes together or hold down something that needs to stay put because it can untie under movement.



Note: Both parts of the rope must exit the knot together

**Sheet Bend Knot:** Used for tying two ropes together.



**Double Fisherman's Knot:** Used for tying two ropes together.

