Lesson Plans are designed to accompany the related Helps documents for each Step. Please refer to the resources in the appropriate Helps document found in the Leader Pages while you prepare your lesson.

The six “F”s are presented in a suggested order, but you are not required to complete them in that order. You may rearrange them as fits your troop’s particular needs.

**Necessary Resources**

- Pictures of edge tools (or the actual tools)
- Knife-Sized wood (or other small objects. See Fingers activity)
- Clothespins

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- Edge Tool Examples
  - Clothespins

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- Knives (to cut soap and whittle)
  - Clothespins
**Clothespin Tag**

Give every Mountain Lion eight clothespins to pin anywhere on their clothes where they can be reached by other Mountain Lions. On 'Go' signal, everyone tries to pull a clothespin off someone else. As soon as a clothespin is snatched, the Mountain Lion who stole it kneels down. He pins the clothespin to his clothes. While kneeling, a Mountain Lion is safe from having a clothespin taken. Set a time limit and see who (or which team) has the most clothespins when time is called.

*You may need to set rules to prevent kneeling too long or kneeling without first snatching a clothespin.*
FOCUS

What are Edge Tools?
Learn about different kinds of edge tools. See what makes them different from each other and what they are each used for. Some edge tools to discuss are:

- Knife
- Saw
- Axe
- Machete

Bring in some pictures of the edge tools (or examples of the real tools, but do not let the boys use them), show the boys what they look like, and discuss how tools are not toys.

Safety
Learn some safety rules for handling edge tools. Some rules are outlined in the Helps document. Talk about how you can get really hurt if you don’t use an edge tool properly. Discuss the correct and incorrect way to carry the different types of edge tools listed in the Helps document. Trail Guides, consider bringing examples of edge tools so you can show the boys how to properly carry each one.

Knife Safety
I. Discuss the uses of a pocket knife and how it is a tool and not a toy. Introduce/review the following safety points:

- Cut away from your body, not toward it.
- If you drop your knife, let it fall. Don’t attempt to catch it.
- Never run with a knife.
- Don’t throw a knife to anyone. Hand it to them, handle first.
- Never point a knife at anyone.
- Do not use a locking blade if the lock will not lock open. Make sure the lock is working before using it.
• Keep your knife folded or sheathed when carrying or storing.
• Use a sharpening stone, not a power grinder to [illegible] sharpen your knife. A power grinder can make the edge brittle.
• Use the right tool for the job. A pocket knife is for small jobs.
• Don’t use a knife for [illegible]. It can cause the tip to break, possibly causing injury.
• Use a knife in a well-lit area, so you can see what you’re doing.
• Do not use a knife on “live” electrical items like appliances.
• Keep your knife clean, particularly the locking mechanism.
• Keep your knife oiled and sharp. A sharp knife is safer than a dull one.
• Don’t try fixing a knife yourself. It is dangerous.
• If you get cut, seek first aid immediately.

2. **Demonstrate proper knife techniques.** Show the Mountain Lions how to open and close a knife correctly.

3. **Show careful cutting.** Show your Mountain Lions how to properly cut with a folding knife. A good way to practice is to carve a bar of soap.

4. **Go through each step slowly:**
   - Double-check that the blade is locked in the open position.
   - Grip the handle with your whole hand, like the handlebar of a bike.
   - Cut away from your body.
   - Don’t use too much force.

5. **Show how to pass a knife.**
   
   A knife should always be closed when being passed. A knife is offered and received with a “thank you” once the receiver has it.

6. **Show how to maintain a knife.** Demonstrate how to properly sharpen and oil a knife.
7. **Review Questions:**
   - Are both hands used when opening and closing a pocket knife?
   - Do I ask my parent’s permission to carry a knife?
   - Do I cut towards myself?
   - When I sharpen the knife, do I check how sharp it is by running my finger down the blade?
   - Can I run with an open knife?
   - Should I fix my knife if I think it’s broken?
FINGERS

Knife Safety
Learn some safety rules about knives (many outlined in
the Mountain Lion Focus section). Give each boy a piece
of wood (or something small) that represents a knife.
Have them come in front of each other, one at a time,
and show something you should or shouldn’t do with a
knife. For example, have a boy come up and pretend to
cut towards himself. Have the audience guess whether
what he was doing was safe or not.

Carve Soap
Allow the Trailmen time to practice the skills they have
learned by carving the bar of soap and then the small
piece of wood. Find an example of something small that
Mountain Lions can whittle.

or

Woodsman
Complete the requirements for earning the Woodsman
Card and test each Trailman for competency.
Requirements for this award can be found in the online
resources.

Unlike most requirements in the Woodlands Trail, for
safety reasons, participation alone is not enough to earn
the Woodsman card. This is a competency award that
comes with the privilege of being allowed to carry and
use a folding knife. Participating in the lesson without
Woodsman completes the Step, completing the lesson
with Woodsman completes the Step and Card (if
competency is demonstrated).
**FAITH (TRAIL GUIDE THOUGHTS)**

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**God’s Word**
Read Proverbs 27:17. Talk about how God’s Word helps make us stronger.

Pray with the Trailmen.

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**Family and Responsibility**
Read and discuss Ephesians 6:1-3

**Responsibility is:**
- taking care of your duties.
- answering for your actions.
- accountability.
- trustworthiness.
- Important.
- a core value for living honorably.
- being accountable for your behavior.
- being dependable when you have things to do.

**Prayer:**
Give me, O God, a sense of responsibility:
To myself, so that I may never waste the gifts which you have given to me;
To my parents, so that I may do something to try to repay them for all the love and the care they have given to me;
To my teachers, so that all their patient teaching of me may not go for nothing;
To my friends, so that I may never disappoint them.
To those who have gone before me, so that I may never forget what my freedom and liberty cost, and that I may hand on still
finer the heritage and the tradition into which I have entered;
To the world, so that I may put into life more than I take out;
To You, so that I may always remember that You loved me and gave Your Son for me.
Help me remember what I have received, and to use what I have and so to make what I ought to out of this life of mine, which cost so much. This I ask in Jesus Name, Amen.
FAMILY

Tools at Home
Talk with your family about the different types of edge tools. See if your family has any of the ones you learned about in the house.

Tools at Home
Go around your home with your family and see if you can find any of the edge tools you learned about at the meeting. Discuss tool safety with your family and learn how they think you should treat edge tools.

Safety
Review knife safety rules with your parents. Discuss how it is a tool not a toy.
By actively participating in this meeting, each Trailman earned the Edge Tools Step in the Outdoor Skills Branch.

*Note: It is up to the Trail Guide to determine whether or not a Trailman was an active in the meeting. Even if he attended the meeting, you are not required to award him the Step if he did not participate.