



# ROPECRAFT



## WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Learn about knots, hitches and bends in the ropecraft project. Did you know there are 14 basic skills that can be used in many activities and situations from sailing and climbing to working with animals and decorating. This project is a lot of fun and we are KNOT kidding.

## HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN LEARN...

### STARTING OUT

- ✿ Identify different types of cordage
- ✿ Understand the difference between natural fibers and synthetic fibers
- ✿ Learn the different techniques that are used to make cordage
- ✿ Use different techniques to keep your cordage from unraveling
- ✿ Learn the technical terms for the different parts of cordage

### LEARNING MORE

- ✿ Tie and understand the uses of the overhand knot and the slipknot
- ✿ Tie and understand the uses of a square knot
- ✿ Be able to recognize the difference between a square knot and a granny knot
- ✿ Tie and understand the uses of the bowline knot
- ✿ Tie and understand the uses of the figure-eight knot
- ✿ Tie and understand the uses of an alpine butterfly knot

### GOING FURTHER

- ✿ Tie and understand the uses of the following knots:
  - sheet bend
  - sheepshank
  - anchor bend
  - carrick bend
  - fisherman's knot
  - half hitch
  - round turn and two half hitches
  - clove hitch
  - rolling hitch

### RESOURCES

- ✿ Not Just Knots 540 (<http://estore.osu-extension.org/Not-Just-Knots-P454.aspx>)
- ✿ Wyoming Ropecraft Manual 41001-95 ([uwyo.edu/4-h](http://uwyo.edu/4-h))

## TAKE IT FURTHER!

- ✿ Visit a hardware store to see different types of cordage
- ✿ Create your own set of knotting vocabulary
- ✿ Obtain your own copy of *The Ashley Book of Knots* by Clifford W. Ashley
- ✿ Visit a licensed climbing facility to see what kinds of knots are used
- ✿ Visit a marina to see what kind of knots are used
- ✿ Explore different names and uses of a Figure-eight knot
- ✿ Practice tying knots until you can tie them without looking
- ✿ Use your knot tying skills to go fishing
- ✿ Use your knot tying skills to take a camping trip and set up a tent correctly
- ✿ Interview someone who uses knots often
- ✿ Attend a survival class to learn more about how to use knots
- ✿ Explore nature to find natural types of cordage

### ENHANCE YOUR COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Give a demonstration on how to tie a particular kind of knot

Give a presentation about different types of cordage and how it is used

### GET INVOLVED IN CITIZENSHIP AND SERVICE

Host a fishing derby and teach participants how to tie knots properly

Make a knot tying practice station for your local elementary or preschool

Make zipper pulls to donate to a local school

### LEARN ABOUT LEADERSHIP

Lead a ropecraft scavenger hunt in your community. Ask participants to scout out different types of knots that are being used

Start a business making jewelry or other household items with knots that you learned tie. Sell them at a farmers market or local shop

## EXHIBIT IDEAS

- ✿ Make something practical for use on the farm like a halter or lasso
- ✿ Create a bracelet or other wearable from knots
- ✿ A display on how types of cordage has evolved over time
- ✿ A poster of how to keep your cordage from unraveling
- ✿ A poster on the parts of cordage
- ✿ A knot board
- ✿ A report highlighting your favorite knot and its uses
- ✿ A display on how to repair damaged sections of rope
- ✿ A poster on variations of different types of knots
- ✿ Make a decorative knot piece
- ✿ Make a functional piece from knots like a plant hanger



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