

Wood Cookies and the Art of Using a Bow Saw¹

WHAT YOU NEED:

- ❑ Bow saw
- ❑ Surface: table, log, saw-horse
- ❑ Small tree 2 inches in diameter or more.
- ❑ Gloves

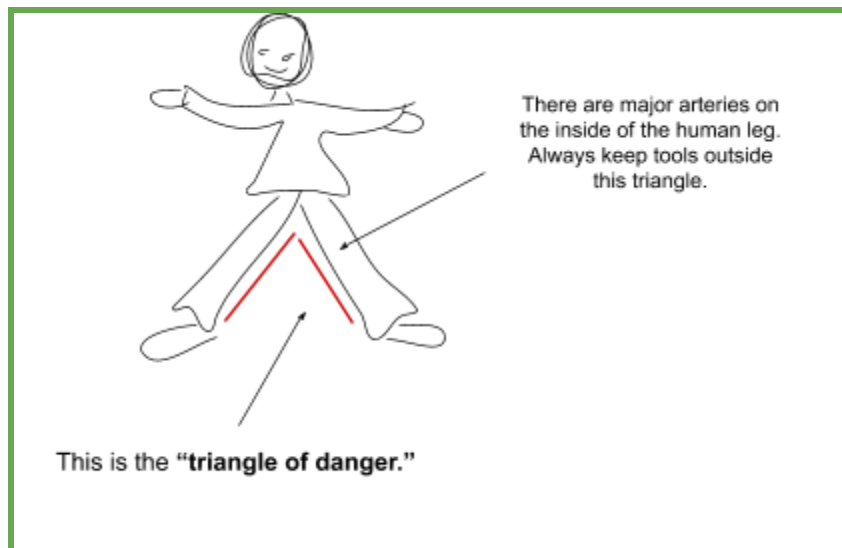
SAFETY PROTOCOL:

Adult inspects saw before it is used.

- Safety cover is intact
- Both ends of saw are stable and not wobbly
- Teeth of saw are not bent and form a debris-free valley when blade is held at eye-level
- Clean and oil if needed

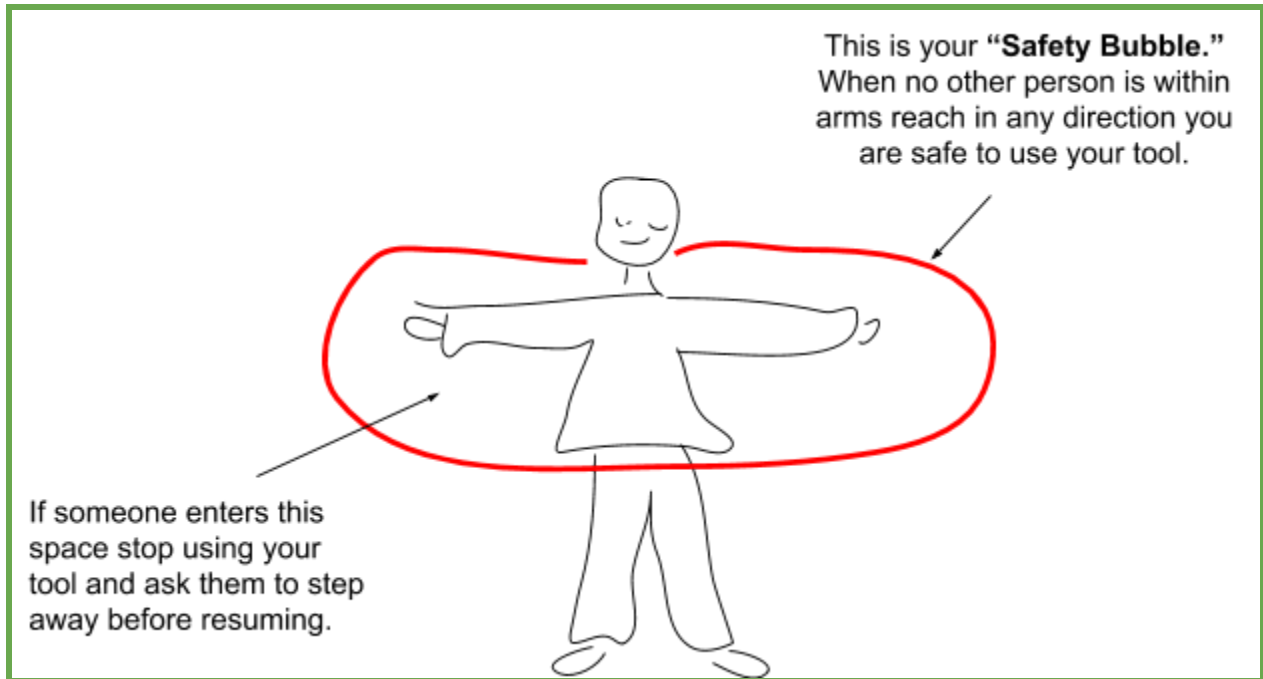
Demonstrates handling of saw.

- Wear a glove in the hand NOT gripping the handle of the saw



¹ Thank you to Caylin Gans and *Tracks Forest School* for the demonstration!

- Movement of saw should always be outside the legs, never in the “triangle of danger”
- Stop using the tool if someone comes inside your “safety bubble.” You are responsible for keeping yourself and others safe since you are the one with the tool.



- Carry saw by your side with blade side facing the ground.
- Put cover back on immediately after you are done. Never leave saw on the ground!

Demonstrate how to use the saw.

- Grip the trunk you are cutting into cookies in your left hand (if you are right-handed) and apply pressure downward. This hand should be wearing the glove.
- Grip the handle of the saw in your right hand (if you are right-handed)
- Pull the saw through the wood three times in one direction (towards yourself) to make a groove. This helps to keep the saw from bouncing around as you cut.
- A second person (adult at first) will grip the other end of the saw to create a pull/push action.
- Each person will say, “to me” before the saw is pushed in their direction.

BENEFITS OF THIS ACTIVITY

The child learns how to keep themselves, partner, and other people safe. They learn to communicate in order to maintain safety and to get a job done. They develop a sense of confidence and responsibility while learning a valuable skill. Finally, they create wood-cookies that can be used for name tags, medals, crafts, play, and more!

