

## QUALITY CHAPTER MEETING

### *Number 11—Tool Talk*

**Background:** Often, chapter and lodge service opportunities involve tools: shovels, pick mattocks, chainsaws, axes, and hedge trimmers. Safety should be the primary concern of the chapter at these events. Does your chapter spend enough time instructing its members on the safe use of these tools, or does the chapter just hope for the best? Working with tools can be rewarding, but only if it is safe.

**Meeting resources:** Bring resources to a chapter meeting to have a “tool talk.” Bring the tools themselves as well as any safety equipment needed. For example, if you bring an axe, also bring gloves and eye protection. Also invite someone trained at ArrowCorps5 in tool safety to help instruct. Bring books and web sources, like <http://www.americantrails.org/resources/info/tools.doc>

**Meeting Content:** Invite various instructors to discuss the different tools on hand. For example, one scout can discuss the proper method to use an axe, loppers, sledge hammer, and post-hole digger. An adult Arrowman can talk about chainsaws, drills, weed eaters, and nail guns.

- ♦ Practice the proper handling, sharpening, and use of each tool.
- ♦ Try on the various safety equipment and learn how to obtain a proper fit.
- ♦ Discuss first aid procedures in case an accident occurs.
- ♦ Make a chapter-level goal for zero injuries at future work days.
- ♦ Watch videos about tool safety and consult safety manuals.
- ♦ If there are any questions that can't be answered at the meeting, make sure the questions are answered after the meeting and some follow-up research.

If the meeting goes smoothly it will serve a dual purpose: Educating your chapter's members and keeping them safe!