

# Sporting Knives and Tools in America: Essential to Daily Life

## Sporting Knives and Tools

Throughout the U.S. people use knives and edged tools daily:

- At work, from construction worker to florist
- During normal activities, from opening packages to cutting apples
- In recreational activities, from camping to fishing and hunting.
- In life-saving situations by EMTs, firefighters, law enforcement and the military.

They are an essential, fundamental tool for work and play in American lives.<sup>1</sup>

## U.S. Sporting Knife & Tool Industry - \$5.722 Billion Economic Impact<sup>2</sup>

- 4,704 direct U.S. Employees at 81 Companies
- 23,520 Ancillary Support Jobs in Other Industries and Services
- \$953.7 Million Gross Revenues at Manufacturer/Importer Level
- \$5.722 Billion Total Economic Impact on U.S. Economy



## Millions of Americans Use Knives Daily

- 34 Million hunters and anglers carry knives<sup>3</sup>
- 3.2 Million law enforcement officers, EMT's, firefighters, security guards carry valuable tools every hour of the day<sup>4</sup>
- 2.2 Million active and reserve military forces carry knives<sup>5</sup>
- 5.2 Million construction workers rely on knives and multi-tools<sup>4</sup>
- Nearly 1 Million adult volunteers in local councils throughout the U.S. and its territories help Boy Scouts of America with 2.4 Million youth members to Be Prepared<sup>6</sup>
- Nearly half of all Americans - 48.4% - participated in at least one outdoor activity in 2014. This equates to 141.4 Million people involved in activities where knives are often carried and used.<sup>7</sup>

## Majority of Knives Designed to Open Easily with One Hand<sup>8</sup>

- Knife users prefer easy to open, folding knives called pocket knives, one-hand opening or assisted opening and automatics, and multi-tools with one or more knife blades.
- The majority of activities using a knife require one hand free for holding something.
- Automatic knives currently are legal in approximately 34 states.
- Courts in California, Illinois and Michigan have expressly ruled that assisted-openers are not illegal switchblades.
- The Federal Switchblade Act (1958) was amended in 2009 to clarify that these knives which have a bias toward closure are not illegal switchblades in interstate commerce.

## Billions of Dollars Benefit the U.S. Economy

- Hunters and anglers are a \$76 Billion economic force annually.<sup>3</sup>
- Outdoor recreation including camping, backpacking, kayaking, climbing, etc. generates \$646 billion in consumer spending.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup>See <http://www.akti.org/resources/people-use-knives> for a partial list of knife users

<sup>2</sup>State of the Sporting Knife & Tool Industry, American Knife & Tool Institute (published 2015; data 2014)

<sup>3</sup>Hunting and Fishing: Bright Stars of the American Economy, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, 2013

<sup>4</sup>U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Employment Statistics, May 2015

<sup>5</sup>Wikipedia.org

<sup>6</sup>2014 BSA Report to the Nation

<sup>7</sup>Outdoor Recreation Participation Topline Report 2015, Outdoor Foundation

<sup>8</sup>State of the Sporting Knife & Tool Industry Survey, American Knife & Tool Institute, 2015

<sup>9</sup>Outdoor Industry Association.org/research

