

MERIT BADGE SERIES

FLY-FISHING



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

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"Enhancing our youths' competitive edge through merit badges"



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Requirements

1. Do the following:
 - a. Explain to your counselor the most likely hazards you may encounter while participating in fly-fishing activities and what you should do to anticipate, help prevent, mitigate, and respond to these hazards. Name and explain five safety practices you should always follow while fly-fishing.
 - b. Discuss the prevention of and treatment for health concerns that could occur while fly-fishing, including cuts and scratches, puncture wounds, insect bites, hypothermia, dehydration, heat exhaustion, heatstroke, and sunburn.
 - c. Explain how to remove a hook that has lodged in your arm.
2. Demonstrate how to match a fly rod, line, and leader to achieve a balanced system. Discuss several types of fly lines, and explain how and when each would be used. Review with your counselor how to care for this equipment.
3. Demonstrate how to tie proper knots to prepare a fly rod for fishing:
 - a. Tie backing to the arbor of a fly reel spool using an arbor knot.
 - b. Tie backing to the fly line using a nail knot.
 - c. Attach a leader to the fly line using a nail knot or a loop-to-loop connection.
 - d. Add a tippet to a leader using a surgeon's knot or a loop-to-loop connection.
 - e. Tie a fly onto the terminal end of the leader using an improved clinch knot.

4. Explain how and when each of the following types of flies is used: dry flies, wet flies, nymphs, streamers, bass bugs, poppers, and saltwater flies. Tell what each one imitates. Tie at least two types of the flies mentioned in this requirement.
5. Demonstrate the ability to cast a fly 30 feet consistently and accurately using both overhead and roll cast techniques.
6. Go to a suitable fishing location and observe what fish may be eating both above and beneath the water's surface. Explain the importance of matching the hatch.
7. Do the following:
 - a. Explain the importance of practicing Leave No Trace techniques. Discuss the positive effects of Leave No Trace on fly-fishing resources.
 - b. Discuss the meaning and importance of catch and release. Describe how to properly release a fish safely to the water.
8. Obtain and review a copy of the regulations affecting game fishing where you live or where you plan to fish. Explain why they were adopted and what is accomplished by following them.
9. Discuss what good sportsmanlike behavior is and how it relates to anglers. Tell how the Outdoor Code of the Boy Scouts of America relates to a fishing enthusiast, including the aspects of littering, trespassing, courteous behavior, "catch and release," and obeying fishing regulations.
10. Catch at least one fish using a fly rod and a fly. Identify it and quickly release it live back into the water. Discuss this experience with your counselor.
11. If regulations and health concerns permit, clean and cook a fish you have caught. If you are unable to catch a fish for eating, acquire a fish, clean the fish you acquired, and cook the fish you acquired. (It is not required that you eat the fish.)

Fly-Fishing Resources

Scouting Resources

Conservation Handbook; Fieldbook; Deck of First Aid; Emergency First Aid pocket guide; *Be Prepared First Aid Book; Freshwater Fishes* pocket guide; *Scouts BSA Handbook for Boys* and *Scouts BSA Handbook for Girls; Camping, Cooking, Fish and Wildlife Management*, and *Fishing* merit badge pamphlets

With your parent's permission, visit the Boy Scouts of America's official retail website, www.scoutshop.org, for a complete listing of all merit badge pamphlets and other helpful Scouting materials and supplies.

Books

- Alley, Robert H. *40 Best Trout Flies*. Frank Amato Publications, 1997.
- Best, A.K. *A.K. Best's Fly Box*. Lyon's Press, 2006.
- Hughes, Dave. *Essential Trout Flies*, 2nd ed. Stackpole Books, 2017.
- Leiser, Eric. *The Complete Book of Fly Tying*, 2nd ed. Skyhorse Publishing, 2008.
- Lord, Macaulay. *The L.L. Bean Fly-Casting Handbook*. Lyons Press, 2000.
- McKim, John F. *Fly Tying: Adventures in Fur, Feathers, and Fun*. Mountain Press Publishing Company, 1998.
- McNally, Tom, and Tom Beecham. *The Complete Book of Fly Fishing*, 2nd ed. McGraw-Hill Professional Publishing, 1997.
- Morris, Skip. *Fly Tying Made Clear and Simple*. Frank Amato Publications, 1992.
- Rosenbauer, Tom. *The Orvis Fly-Fishing Guide*. revised ed. Lyons Press, 2017.
- Rutter, Michael. *Fly Fishing Made Easy: A Manual for Beginners With Tips for the Experienced*. Globe Pequot Press, 2006.
- Shook, Michael D., and Mel Krieger. *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Fly Fishing*, 2nd ed. Alpha Books, 2005.
- Sousa, Robert J. *Learn to Fly-Fish in 24 Hours*. McGraw-Hill, 2006.
- Talleur, Dick. *Modern Fly-Tying Materials*. Lyons Press, 1995.
- Whitlock, Dave. *The L.L. Bean Fly-Fishing Handbook*, 2nd ed. Lyons Press, 2006.
- Wulff, Joan. *Joan Wulff's Fly Casting Techniques*. Lyons Press, 2016.

DVDs

- LaFontaine, Gary, and Dick Sharon.
Successful Fly Fishing Strategies, 100 minutes. Miracle Productions, 2002.
- Wulff, Joan. *Joan Wulff's Dynamics of Fly Casting. From Solid Basics to Advanced Techniques*, 90 minutes. Miracle Productions, 2001.
- Young, David, and Cheryl Young.
Fly Fishing: The Lifetime Sport, 240 minutes. Honeybear Press, 2005.

Periodicals

Fly Fish America magazine

Website: www.flyfishamerica.com

Fly Fishing & Fly Tying magazine

Website: www.flyfishing-and-flytying.co.uk

Fly Fisherman magazine online

Website: www.flyfisherman.com

Organizations and Websites

American Fisheries Society

Telephone: 301-897-8616

Website: <https://fisheries.org>

The American Museum of Fly Fishing

4070 Main St.

Manchester, VT 05254

Telephone: 802-362-3300

Website: www.amff.com

Federation of Fly Fishers

Telephone: 406-222-9369

Website:

<https://flyfishersinternational.org>

International Game Fish Association

Telephone: 954-927-2628

Website: www.igfa.org

Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics

Toll-free telephone: 800-332-4100

Website: <https://lnt.org>

Trout Unlimited

Toll-free telephone: 800-834-2419

Website: www.tu.org

The Federation of Fly Fishers, International Game Fish Association, and Trout Unlimited have each signed a memorandum of mutual support with the Boy Scouts of America that emphasizes an ongoing relationship to promote mutually beneficial programs such as the Fly-Fishing merit badge.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Toll-free telephone: 800-344-9453

Website: www.fws.gov

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