FISHING

“Enhancing our youths’ competitive edge through merit badges”
7. Do ONE of the following:

(a) Determine the age of five species of fish from scale samples or identify various age classes of one species in a lake and report the results.

(b) Conduct a creel census on a small lake to estimate catch per unit effort.

(c) Examine the stomach contents of three fish and record the findings. It is not necessary to catch any fish for this option. You must visit a cleaning station set up for fishermen or find another, similar alternative.

(d) Make a freshwater aquarium. Include at least four species of native plants and four species of animal life, such as whirligig beetles, freshwater shrimp, tadpoles, water snails, and golden shiners. After 60 days of observation, discuss with your counselor the life cycles, food chains, and management needs you have recognized. After completing requirement 7d to your counselor’s satisfaction, with your counselor’s assistance, check local laws to determine what you should do with the specimens you have collected.

8. Using resources found at the library and in periodicals, books, and the internet (with your parent’s permission), learn about three different positions held by fisheries and/or wildlife professionals. Find out the education and training requirements for each position.

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**Fishing**

1. Do the following:

(a) Explain to your counselor the most likely hazards you may encounter while participating in fishing activities, and what you should do to anticipate, help prevent, mitigate, and respond to these hazards.

(b) Discuss the prevention of and treatment for the following health concerns that could occur while 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.

(d) Name and explain five safety practices you should always follow while fishing.

2. Discuss the differences between two types of fishing outfits. Point out and identify the parts of several types of rods and reels. Explain how and when each would be used. Review with your counselor how to care for this equipment.

3. Demonstrate the proper use of two different types of fishing equipment.

4. Demonstrate how to tie the following knots: improved clinch knot, Palomar knot, uni knot, uni to uni knot, and arbor knot. Explain how and when each knot is used.

5. Name and identify five basic artificial lures and five natural baits and explain how to fish with them. Explain why baitfish are not to be released.
6. Do the following:
   (a) Explain the importance of practicing Leave No Trace techniques. Discuss the positive effects of Leave No Trace on fishing resources.
   (b) Discuss the meaning and importance of catch and release. Describe how to properly release a fish safely to the water.

7. Obtain and review the regulations affecting game fishing where you live. Explain why they were adopted and what is accomplished by following them.

8. Explain what good outdoor sportsmanlike behavior is and how it relates to anglers. Tell how the Outdoor Code of the Boy Scouts of America relates to a fishing sports enthusiast, including the aspects of littering, trespassing, courteous behavior, and obeying fishing regulations.

9. Catch at least one fish and identify it.

10. If regulations and health concerns permit, clean and cook a fish you have caught. Otherwise, acquire a fish and cook it. (You do not need to eat your fish.)

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Fly-Fishing

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 a backing to a fly reel spool using the arbor knot.
   (b) Attach backing to fly line using the nail knot.
   (c) Attach a leader to fly line using the needle knot, nail knot, or a loop-to-loop connection.
   (d) Add a tippet to a leader using a loop-to-loop connection or blood knot.
   (e) Tie a fly onto the terminal end of the leader using the 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.

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Scouts should obey all local fishing regulations and property laws.
Fishing Resources

Scouting Literature

Visit the Boy Scouts of America’s official retail website (with your parent’s permission) at http://www.scoutstuff.org for a complete listing of all merit badge pamphlets and other helpful Scouting materials and supplies.

Books


DVD
Organizations and Websites

American Sportfishing Association
1001 North Fairfax St., Suite 501
Alexandria, VA 22314
Telephone: 703-519-9691
Websites: http://www.asafishing.org

Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum
P.O. Box 1295
Livingston Manor, NY 12758
Telephone: 845-439-4810
Website: http://www.catskillflyfishing.org

Federation of Fly Fishers
5237 U.S. Highway 89 South, Suite 11
Livingston, MT 59047
Telephone: 406-222-9369
Website: http://www.fedflyfishers.org

Future Fisherman Foundation
5998 North Pleasant View Road
Ponca City, OK 74601
Telephone: 580-716-4251
Website: http://www.futurefisherman.org

International Game Fish Association
300 Gulf Stream Way
Dania Beach, FL 33004
Telephone: 954-927-2628
Website: http://www.igfa.org

Izaak Walton League of America
707 Conservation Lane
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
Telephone: 301-548-0150
Website: http://www.iwla.org

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries
1315 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Telephone: 301-713-2334
Website: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov

National Park Service
1849 C St., NW
Washington, DC 20240
Telephone: 202-208-3818
Website: http://www.nps.gov

Trout Unlimited
1300 N. 17th St., Suite 500
Arlington, VA 22209-2404
Toll-free telephone: 800-834-2419
Website: http://www.tu.org

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C St., NW
Washington, DC 20240
Toll-free telephone: 800-344-9453
Website: http://www.fws.gov

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 for recreational fishing.

Acknowledgments

The Boy Scouts of America thanks Douglas Precourt; Robert J. Sousa, Ph.D., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (retired); and Ben Jelsema, volunteer Scouter, for preparing this revised version of the Fishing merit badge pamphlet. Sousa and Jelsema have put in countless hours as coordinators of the fishing exhibits at the last three national Scout jamborees. Thanks also to Howard Kern, Master Leave No Trace Trainer, for his valuable assistance.

We are grateful to Howard E. Evans, Ph.D., and Edward Brothers of Ithaca, N.Y., for their expertise and invaluable input, and to Bob Cary, who wrote and illustrated the previous edition of the pamphlet, upon which this edition was based. Several of his illustrations remain in this edition. Thanks also to Trout Unlimited for its support.

The Boy Scouts of America is grateful to the men and women serving on the Merit Badge Maintenance Task Force for the improvements made in updating this pamphlet.