

Certified Angling Instructor

BSA National Camping School



What Is a Certified Angling Instructor (CAI)?

- Official BSA certification for fishing and fly-fishing programs and merit badge instructor
- Train the trainer position
- One who leads and executes fishing programs at the council level
- Fishing program advocate and resource for Cub Scout, Boy Scout, and Venturing units
- Develop and support council fishing programs
- Now part of the BSA National Camping School schedule
- Qualified for national fishing staff positions at jamborees, Order of the Arrow conferences, and help train fishing staffs at all four BSA high-adventure bases

Scouters who successfully complete the Certified Angler Instructor Course or the CAI Course at National Camping School are eligible to earn the recognition patches and will be assigned a CAI number and receive a CAI certificate.

Why We Offer CAI Training

Strengthen Your Council's Fishing Lineup With the CAI Program

To help councils understand the great opportunity that fishing offers for recruitment and retention, it takes a local champion. That is what the Certified Angler Instructor (CAI) program is all about! Trained champions can promote the need for a good fishery and recruit more CAIs within the council as well as qualified merit badge counselors for the Fishing, Fly-fishing, and Fish and Wildlife merit badges.

We all know that fishing with Scouts is very popular, even with minimal program help. We also know most BSA camps are not offering a focused fishing emphasis, nor do they have an adequate fishery or well-managed lakes/ponds to attract Scouts.

Our objective for a quality fishery is for a Scout to have a reasonable chance to catch a fish within 30 minutes. Ideally, a smaller pond—two to five acres—and well-stocked with panfish like bluegill, trout, or perch is better than a large lake with a few large bass or muskies and multiple species that would appeal to adult Scouters. A quantity of fish with easy accessibility is best to get Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts interested, provide great enjoyment in fishing, and help deliver more merit badges.

Councils that have endorsed the CAI program are delivering great success with their fishing programs.

We now have just under 500 CAIs across the U.S., and they are making a great impact. That is a ratio of one CAI for every 5,100 Scouts, or approximately one per council. Unfortunately, we would be lucky to have CAIs in 20 percent of the councils. Ideally, a reasonable ratio would be one CAI per 1,000 Scouts. Looking at it another way, a council with 15,000 youth should have 15 CAIs. Think what an impact a committee of 15 CAIs could have delivering quality council fishing programs to Scouts!

Course Goals

- Qualify to become a Certified Angling Instructor by attending a qualified CAI course.
- Gain hands-on learning of fly-casting, fly-tying, fishing knots, finding fish, and etiquette—and how to teach these same skills.
- Catch a fish or two and demonstrate catch-and-release. Clean and cook a fish.
- Participate in discussions about other councils' fishing programs.
- Receive and UTILIZE booklets containing Merit Badge Counselor Guides for the Fishing, Fly-Fishing, and Fish and Wildlife Management merit badges.
- Learn about the new Complete Angler Award for Scouts in your council.
- Commit to making fishing a priority within your council.