



## Module 2: Den and Pack Opportunities

Opportunities can be said to be small gifts given to us to do with as we see fit. This description holds true in the Cub Scouting program—especially with fishing. Fishing is a vital aspect of the outdoor program and has been one of the favorite activities for youth in the Scouting program.

This module will share some den and pack opportunities that will help you share the joy of fishing with boys in your pack. Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts may earn fishing awards in a family, den, pack, school, or community setting. Tiger Cubs must always be accompanied by and work with their parents or adult partner.

Fishing provides boys the opportunity to earn the fishing belt loop and pin as well as partials on electives, achievements, and activity pins. The official source for the information can be found in the *Cub Scout Academic and Sports Program Guide*, No. 34299. Since updates are frequently made, always check [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org) or your council office for updates.

Fishing brings many opportunities, such as learning responsibilities, a new skill, lessons about the environment, and water safety. In addition, young people love to stay active. (To prove my point, watch them during a pack activity or den meeting!) Fishing is one of those activities that can keep them active and focused.

Where can I find these fishing opportunities? My answer to this question: everywhere!

- Each spring, sporting goods stores provide seminars or even kids' fishing days.
- Check with local fishing clubs like Trout Unlimited, Federation of Fly Fishing, Walleye Unlimited, Bass Unlimited, North American Fishing Club, and more. These organizations host clinics each year in your community.
- Your local department of natural resources or state parks host classes and events to market fishing opportunities in the state. Most states have a free fishing weekend where fishing licenses are not required.
- Council or district events, such as day camp, Mom & Me, Dad & Me, and more, may be available.
- Pack or den activity: Module 1 outlines how to plan for an outing. Don't forget to include fishing games such as the following:
  - Tying fishing knots
  - Fish identification
  - Casting challenges
  - Equipment identification and more

My gift to you is to suggest that you make the most of the opportunity to take a young person fishing! You will be glad you did. The experience will foster a sense of personal achievement in helping boys develop a new interest and skill!