

A BEAR GOES FISHING

ELECTIVE ADVENTURE



102 Bear

SNAPSHOT OF ADVENTURE



Grizzly bears in the wild use their fishing skills to catch good, nutritious food. After you complete this Adventure, you'll be able to do the same thing. You won't have to use your paws and teeth, however.

Instead, you'll use a cane pole or a rod and reel.

You'll also learn about the fish that live nearby and the rules that must be followed when fishing. And who knows? You may discover a hobby that you can enjoy for years to come. So grab your tackle, and let's go fishing!

REQUIREMENTS

1. Learn about three types of fish in your area.
2. Learn about your local fishing regulations with your den leader or another adult.
3. List three of the regulations you learned about and one reason each regulation exists.
4. Become familiar with the safe use of the fishing equipment you use on your outing.
5. Learn the proper way to attach the hook, lure, or fly to the line.
6. Go on a fishing adventure, and for 30 minutes or more, put into practice the things you have learned about fish and fishing equipment.



- [Elective Adventure](#)
- [Scan for this Adventure page](#)

REQUIREMENT 1

Learn about three types of fish in your area.

Fish can be picky eaters. What they like to eat changes based on what is available. One day they may want smaller fish; other days they may want a bug. Some species of fish will eat just about anything.

Some fish like cold water; others like warm water. Fish live in most waters, including fresh water (inland lakes, ponds, streams, and rivers); others live in salt water (oceans and shoreline areas). Some types of fish like to hide in underwater brush piles; others like to swim in open water.

Before you go fishing, it's important to know about the fish that live in your area. Learn about three fish species that live in your local waters. Record what you discovered on these pages.

You can find links to state fish and wildlife agencies on the internet (with permission) at www.fws.gov/offices/.



You can learn about fish species at your school or local library or on the internet with the help of your parent or legal guardian. Your state has a government agency that takes care of the fish population. It can be a good source for information about fish species.

Some communities have fish hatcheries (places that hatch fish eggs and grow fish) that you can tour and where you can learn about fish. Other good sources of information are local fishing clubs and stores that sell fishing equipment and bait.

FISH IN MY AREA

Fish Species 1: _____

Looks Like: _____

Likes to Eat: _____

Habitat: _____

Average weight: _____

Fish Species 2: _____

Looks Like: _____

Likes to Eat: _____

Habitat: _____

Average weight: _____

Fish Species 3: _____

Looks Like: _____

Likes to Eat: _____

Habitat: _____

Average weight: _____



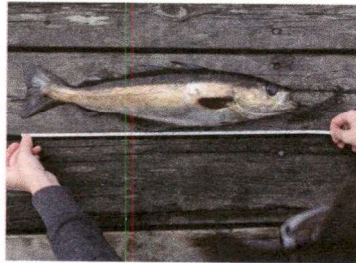
_____ **Date**

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REQUIREMENT 2

Learn about your local fishing regulations with your den leader or another adult.

There are rules and regulations to follow when fishing. These are important because they help protect the fish and their environment. It is important that you learn these rules, understand what they mean, and promise to follow them.



Your local area may have rules about where and when you can fish, how big a fish must be to keep, and how many fish you're allowed to keep. In some places, you must put the fish you catch back in the water. This practice is called catch and release. It is a good way to make sure fish continue to live in the place you're fishing.



In addition to rules about fishing, your state will also require a fishing license. Adults must purchase a fishing license before they go fishing. Youth who are Cub Scout age often don't have to have a license. Be sure to find out about licensing requirements in your area.

Once you know your local fishing rules and regulations, here are the six things to know to keep yourself and others safe:

1. Fish with proper adult supervision.
2. Get permission to fish where you plan to fish.
3. Check the weather before you go. Do not fish in a thunderstorm or inclement weather.
4. Use the buddy system. You must be able to see your buddy.
5. Give plenty of room to others who are fishing nearby.
6. Never fish where people are swimming.

Be sure to discuss any other rules your family has so you'll be safe while fishing.

Fishing tips:

- ▶ When you are through fishing, properly dispose of your worms or bait fish. Do not release them into the water.
- ▶ If releasing your catch, always wet your hands prior to touching a fish to protect the mucous membrane that protects the fish.
- ▶ To release fish easily, bend down all barbs on hooks.
- ▶ Treble hooks are not recommended.



_____ Date _____

_____ Adult's Signature _____

REQUIREMENT 3

List three of the regulations you learned about
and one reason each regulation exists.

FISHING REGULATIONS

Fishing Regulation 1: _____

This regulation is important because _____

Fishing Regulation 2: _____

This regulation is important because _____

Fishing Regulation 3: _____

This regulation is important because _____



Date

Adult's Signature

REQUIREMENT 4

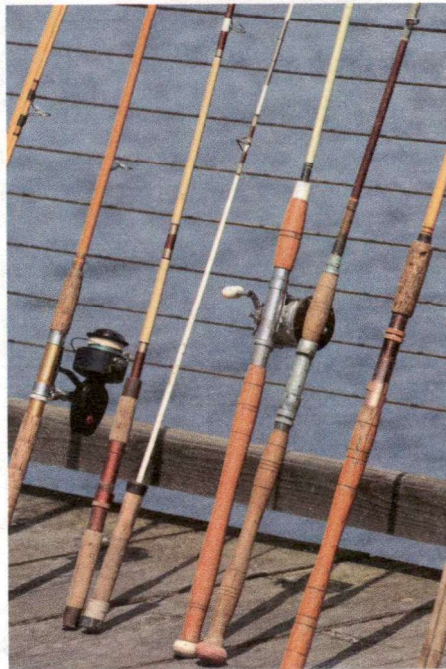
Become familiar with the safe use of the fishing equipment you will use on your outing.

It's fun to fish with a simple fishing pole, but most people use a rod and reel instead. A rod and reel will allow you to cast your line farther out into the water. And when you hook a fish, it's easier to reel it in.

ROD

The rod takes the place of the fishing pole. A rod has line guides (metal rings) along its length that the fishing line runs through. Most rods are made of fiberglass or carbon fiber. Some rods come apart so you can transport them easily. These are called take-down rods.

The weight of rods varies. To catch small fish, you could use an ultralight rod. To catch fish like trout, you could use a long, thin, lightweight rod called a fly rod. For bigger fish, you would need a rod that is thicker and stronger. If you were going surf fishing, you might use a rod that's 20 feet long!



REEL

The reel is attached to the rod near its handle. Inside the reel is a spool that your fishing line wraps around (and around and around and around). From the reel, the end of the line goes up the rod through the guides before you attach your hook or lure. To reel in the line, you turn the reel. When casting (tossing your line out on the water), you release a trigger on the reel, which lets the fishing line go.



There are many types of reels. If you're new to fishing, you might want to pick a close-faced spincast reel that has a cover to protect the line inside. When casting with a spincast reel, you press and hold the button on top of the reel. During the cast, you release the button to let the line out and complete the cast. The timing can be tricky, but you'll soon figure it out.

Open-faced spincasting reels don't have a cover and take more skill to use. Without practice, you can end up with something called a "bird's nest": a big, knotted wad of fishing line that is no longer usable.



FISHING LINE

There are many types and colors of fishing line. Some line is meant to catch fish that weigh less than a pound. Some is meant to catch fish that weigh 10, 20, or even 50 or more pounds. Be sure to use line that is strong enough for the fish you want to catch. Otherwise, a fish can break the line and get away.

Fishing line may be clear or have a tint, like green or bronze. Like camouflage, the tinted fishing line blends into its surroundings and makes a good choice for fishing when looking to keep your line invisible to fish. A tinted fishing line may be more visible to you than clear fishing line in very clear water.



BAIT

You will also need to have the correct bait for the type of fish you're fishing for. If the fish don't like to eat the bait you're using, they won't bite. Do you remember what you learned in requirement 1 about the fish in your area? You will have better luck catching a fish if you use bait that the fish would naturally eat.

You will need to decide if you want to use live bait like minnows, worms, or grubs or use artificial bait. There are many types of artificial bait. Some make noise in the water or spin around to attract fish. Some are designed to look like live bait. There are special dough baits that you can form around the hook. These have scents that attract fish.





TACKLE BOX

A tackle box is a good place to store your bait and other fishing supplies (called tackle) while you're traveling and while you're fishing. It keeps your tackle clean and organized. You can buy a tackle box at a store or reuse something you find around your home. Be sure there is a way to secure the lid so it doesn't open at the wrong time.

Here are some things to carry in your tackle box:

- ▶ **Artificial bait** to catch fish.
- ▶ **Barbless hooks** cause less harm to a fish's mouth when you're practicing catch-and-release fishing. If you cannot find barbless hooks, you can use pliers to flatten the barbs on barbed hooks.
- ▶ **Bobbers** are small floats that attach to your fishing line. They keep your hook at a certain depth and show when a fish bites.
- ▶ **Sinkers** are weights attached to your fishing line about 6-10 inches above the hook. They let you fish lower in the water because they pull down on the hook. This keeps your bait down near the lake or river bottom where most fish swim. For most shore fishing, pinch one or two small split-shot sinkers onto your line. Use only enough weight to sink the bait.
- ▶ **Clippers** let you cut off the fishing line after you tie it on a hook.
- ▶ **Dehookers** are used to remove hooks safely and quickly from a fish who swallows them.
- ▶ **Needle-nose pliers** help you remove hooks from fish and pull knots tight.



Date

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REQUIREMENT 5

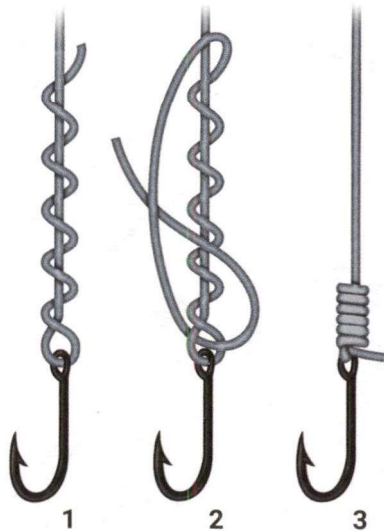
Learn the proper way to attach the hook, lure, or fly to the line.

FISHING KNOTS

You must know the proper types of knots for tying hooks to your line. Because fishing line is stiff and slippery, you can't just use any knot. You need a knot that will jam against itself and hold tight. Here are two good knots to learn.

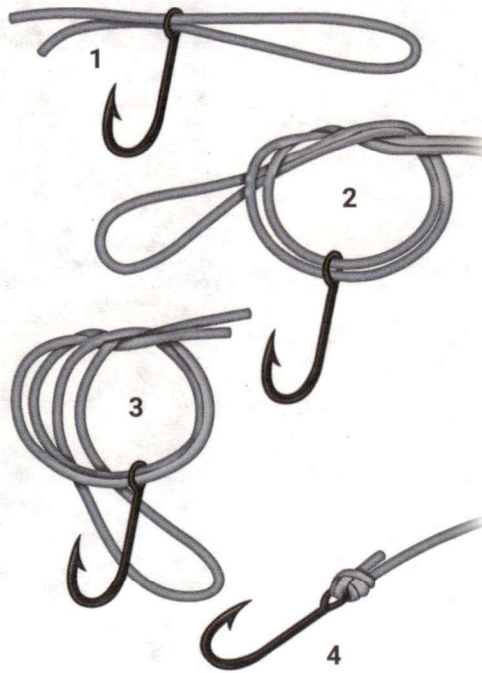
Improved clinch knot.

1. Run the end of the line through the eye of the hook, double the line back, and make six twists around the standing part (the long part of the line).
2. Run the end of the line through the small loop where the line joins the eye and then back through the large loop you just formed.
3. Partially close the knot and moisten it a little with water before securing it tightly against the hook eye. Cut off the short (tag) end of the line.



Palomar knot.

1. Double the line to make a 4- to 6-inch loop, then pass the end of the loop through the eye. (You may need to crimp the end of the loop so it will go through the eye.)
2. Tie a loose overhand knot in the doubled line.
3. Pass the hook through the loop and pull on the doubled line to tighten the knot, guiding the loop over the top of the eye.
4. Cut off the short (tag) end of the line.



Date _____

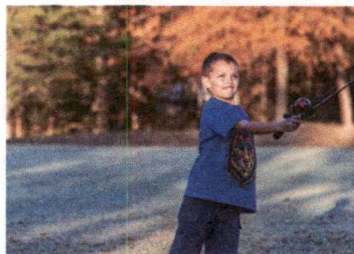
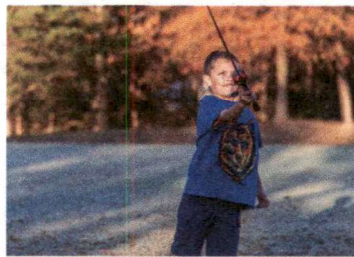
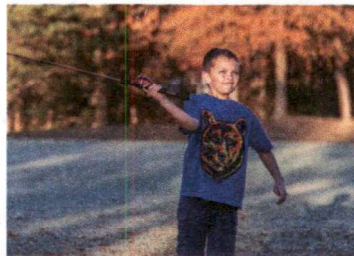
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REQUIREMENT 6

Go on a fishing adventure, and for 30 minutes or more, put into practice the things you have learned about fish and fishing equipment.

It is fun to practice casting and to pick out fishing gear, but the real fun happens when you actually go fishing. It will be exciting to see your bobber disappear under the water or feel the pull on your line as you reel in a fish for the first time. For many people that excitement never goes away, no matter how many fish they catch.

To practice casting, you'll need a rod with a reel attached. Instead of using a hook, tie a casting plug or bobber to your line so it will be heavy enough to cast. Place a target, and practice hitting the target with the casting plug or bobber. Do this until you can get closer to the target than you were at first. As your accuracy improves, move farther from the target. The time you spend practicing will help make fishing safe and fun.



Make a plan with your den, your pack, or your family for where and when you'll go fishing. Spend a minimum of 30 minutes trying to catch a fish. Remember all the things you have learned about fish, fishing equipment, and the rules of fishing. And remember that a Scout is cheerful — even if you don't catch a fish.



Date

Adult's Signature



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