



Fly Fishing

Merit Badge Workbook

This workbook can help you but you still need to read the merit badge pamphlet (book). No one can add or subtract from the Boy Scout Requirements #33216. Each Scout must do each requirement. Merit Badge Workbooks and more: [Online Resources](#).

Workbook developer: craig@craiglincoln.com. Requirements revised: 2012, Workbook updated January 2012.

Scout's Name: _____ Unit: _____

Counselor's Name: _____ Counselor's Ph #: _____

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 health concerns that could occur while fly-fishing, including cuts, _____

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.

| Type | Use & Care |
|------|------------|
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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 loop-to-loop connection _____
 - d. Add 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.

dry flies - Use: _____

imitates: _____

wet flies - Use: _____

imitates: _____

nymphs - Use: _____

imitates: _____

streamers - Use: _____

imitates: _____

bass bugs - Use: _____

imitates: _____

poppers. - Use: _____

imitates: _____

saltwater flies - Use: _____

imitates: _____

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 below the water's surface. _____

Look for flying insects and some that may be on or 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 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. Explain why they were adopted and what you accomplish by following them. _____

9. Discuss 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 enthusiast, including the aspects of littering, _____

trespassing, _____

courteous behavior, _____

and obeying fishing regulations. _____

10. Catch at least one fish. If regulations and health concerns permit, clean and cook a fish you have caught. Otherwise, acquire a fish and cook it. _____

Online Resources: (Use any Internet resource with caution and only with your parent's or guardian's permission.)

Boy Scouts of America: ► scouting.org ► [Guide to Safe Scouting](#) ► [Age-Appropriate Guidelines](#) ► [Safe Swim Defense](#)
 ► [Scout](#) ► [Tenderfoot](#) ► [Second Class](#) ► [First Class](#) ► [Rank Videos](#) ► [Safety Afloat](#)

Boy Scout Merit Badge Workbooks: usscouts.org -or- meritbadge.org **Merit Badge Books:** www.scoutstuff.org

Requirement Resources

These resources and more are at: http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Fly_Fishing.

- 1: **First Aid:** See http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/First_Aid for these links and more:

[First Aid Videos: Basics](#) - [Basics2](#) [Wilderness First Aid](#) [CPR Basics](#) [Venomous Snake Bite](#) [First Aid Kits](#)

Other First Aid Links: [Mayo Clinic First Aid Guide](#) [Class 1 Exam](#) [Class 3](#) [Warning Signs of Cancer](#) - [Heart Disease](#)

- 2: **Fishing equipment:**

Cabela's: <http://www.cabelas.com/>

Bass Pro Shop: <http://www.basspro.com/>

- 3: **Knots:** See <http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Pioneering> for these links and more:

[Knot Videos: Basics](#) - [Basics2](#) - [USScouts Knots](#) - [Animated knots](#) - [More Animated Knots](#) - [Still more](#)

Other Knot Links: [Knots](#) - [Sea Scout Knots](#) - [Ropers Knots Page](#) - [Climbing Knots](#) - [Fishing knots](#) - [Knots Index](#)

- 4: **Fly tying lessons online:** ► [Flies](#) ► [Clinch Knot](#)

- 5: **Fishing lessons online:**

[ExpertVillage Fly Fishing Videos](#) ► [Gear](#) ► [Setup](#) ► [Tippet](#) ► [Cast](#) ► [Cast2](#) ► [Knots](#) ► [more](#)

[ExpertVillage Fishing Videos](#) 📺 [Basics for Kids](#) 📺 [Advanced Fishing](#) 📺 [How to Fillet a Fish](#)

7: Leave No Trace (see next page)

8: Fishing Licenses and Laws for your state: <http://www.takemefishing.org/fishing/license>

9: Outdoor Code (see next page)

10: How to fillet a fish: 📺 http://www.expertvillage.com/video-series/2211_fillet-saltwater-fish.htm

10: Cooking: <http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Cooking> for these links and more:

[Cooking Videos: Food Selection](#) - [Food Quality](#) - [Stoves](#) - [Utensils](#) - [Water Purification](#) - [Leave No Trace](#)

Other Cooking links: [Leave No Trace](#) - [Cooking](#) - [Water Treatment](#) - [Stove Safety](#) - [Food Safety](#) - [Meal Ideas](#)

General Resources:

American Fisheries Society: <http://www.fisheries.org>

American Zoo and Aquarium Association: <http://www.aza.org>

Fly Fish America magazine: <http://www.flyfishamerica.com>

Fly Fisherman magazine: <http://www.flyfisherman.com>

Future Fisherman Foundation: <http://www.futurefisherman.org>

International Game Fish Assn: <http://www.igfa.org>

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov>

National Park Service: <http://nps.gov>

Trout Unlimited: <http://www.tu.org>

American Museum of Fly Fishing: <http://www.amff.com>

Federation of Fly Fishers: <http://www.fedflyfishers.org>

Fly Fishing & Fly Tying: <http://www.flyfishing-and-flytying.co.uk>

American Sportfishing Assn.: <http://www.asafishing.org>

Flyfish.com: <http://www.flyfish.com>

Izaak Walton League of America: <http://www.iwla.org>

Nat. Wildlife Federation: <http://www.nwf.org>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: <http://www.fws.gov>

Wilderness Use Policy of the Boy Scouts of America

All privately or publicly owned backcountry land and designated wildernesses are included in the term “wilderness areas” in this policy. The Outdoor Code of the Boy Scouts of America and the principles of Leave No Trace apply to outdoor behavior generally, but for treks into wilderness areas, minimum-impact camping methods must be used. Within the outdoor program of the Boy Scouts of America, there are many different camping-skill levels. Camping practices that are appropriate for day outings, long-term Scout camp, or short-term unit camping might not apply to wilderness areas. Wherever they go, Scouts need to adopt attitudes and patterns of behavior that respect the rights of others, including future generations, to enjoy the outdoors.

- In wilderness areas, it is crucial to minimize human impact, particularly on fragile ecosystems such as mountains, lakes and streams, deserts, and seashores. Because our impact varies from one season of the year to the next, it becomes important for us to adjust to these changing conditions to avoid damaging the environment.
- The Boy Scouts of America emphasizes these practices for all troops, teams, and crews planning to use wilderness areas:
- Contact the landowner or land-managing agency (USDA Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, state and private agencies, etc.) well before an outing to learn the regulations for that area, including group size limits, to obtain required permits and current maps, and to discuss ways Scouts can fulfill the expectations of property owners or land managers.
- Obtain a tour permit (available through local council service centers), meet all of its conditions, and carry it during the trip.
- Review the appropriate BSA safety literature relating to planned activities. (See Safe Swim Defense, Safety Afloat, Climb On Safely, and Trek Safely.) Also see the Guide to Safe Scouting on the BSA Web site at <http://www.scouting.org/pubs/gss/toc.html> for more information on current BSA policies and procedures for ensuring safe activities, as well as the Fieldbook Web site at <http://www.bsafieldbook.org>.
- Match the ruggedness of high-adventure experiences to the skills, physical ability, and maturity of those taking part. Save rugged treks for older unit members who are more proficient and experienced in outdoor skills.
- Conduct pretrip training for your group that stresses proper wilderness behavior, rules, and skills for all of the conditions that may be encountered, including lightning, missing person, wildfire, high winds, flooding, and emergency medical situations.
- Participate in training in how to apply the principles of Leave No Trace, and be proficient and experienced in the leadership and skills required for treks into wilderness areas.
- Adhere to the principles of Leave No Trace.

The Principles of Leave No Trace

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare
2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
3. Dispose of Waste Properly (Pack It In, Pack It Out)
4. Leave What You Find
5. Minimize Campfire Impacts
6. Respect Wildlife
7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Outdoor Code

As an American, I will do my best to—

Be clean in my outdoor manners. I will treat the outdoors as a heritage. I will take care of it for myself and others. I will keep my trash and garbage out of lakes, streams, fields, woods, and roadways.

Be careful with fire. I will prevent wildfire. I will build my fires only when and where they are appropriate. When I have finished using a fire, I will make sure it is cold out. I will leave a clean fire ring, or remove all evidence of my fire.

Be considerate in the outdoors. I will treat public and private property with respect. I will follow the principles of Leave No Trace for all outdoor activities.

Be conservation-minded. I will learn about and practice good conservation of soil, waters, forests, minerals, grasslands, wildlife, and energy. I will urge others to do the same.