

FISHING

Prepared by:

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Target Group:

First year campers and older

Time Allotted:

One-hour block

Pre-Requisites:

A note from the Scoutmaster affirming that the Scout has caught and identified a fish if a Scout does not catch and identify a fish at camp (requirement 9)

A note from the Scoutmaster affirming that the Scout has cleaned and cooked a fish (requirement 10)

Materials Needed – Staff:

Lures, lines, poles, rope, sharp scissors

Materials Needed – Scout:

See Prerequisite for completing requirements 9 and 10

Instructional Goal:

Upon completion of this activity the Scout will have a strong base of knowledge regarding types of fishing, types of knots used in fishing activities, and types of lures. The Scout will also learn of regulations on game fishing, the importance of catch and release, and the importance of Leave No Trace and its impact on fishing. Furthermore, the Scout should understand potential hazards while fishing and be able to anticipate, treat, and respond to those hazards or illness/injuries.

MONDAY

Requirement 1a

Explain to your counselor the most likely hazards encountered while fishing and how you should anticipate and respond to those hazards

Requirement 1b

Discuss the prevention of and treatment for the following health concerns that could occur while shing: cuts and scratches, puncture wounds, insect bites, hypothermia, dehydration, heat exhaustion, heatstroke, sunburn.

Requirement 1c

Explain how to remove a barbed hook that is lodged in someone's arm.

Requirement 1d

Name and explain 5 safety practices you should always follow while fishing

Requirement 2

Discuss the differences between 2 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. Cover how to care for equipment.

After discussing all of the above requirements, begin fishing

TUESDAY

Requirement 5

Name and identify 5 basic artificial lures, 5 natural baits, and explain how to use each. Explain why bate fish are not to be released.

Requirement 4

Demonstrate (using E.D.G.E. method) the following knots: improved cinch, Palomar, Turtle, blood loop, and double surgeon's loop. Explain how and why each knot is used.

Once the Scouts have shown proficiency with all of the above knots and an understanding of lures, begin fishing.

WEDNESDAY

Requirement 3

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

Requirement 6a

Discuss Leave No Trace, the importance of practicing Leave No Trace techniques, and the positive impact of Leave No Trace on fishing resources.

Requirement 6b

Discuss the meaning and importance of catch and release. Discuss how to properly release a fish safely in the water.

After discussion is complete, begin fishing.

THURSDAY

Requirement 7

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

Remind Scouts that notes from Scoutmaster for requirement 9 (to catch, ID, clean, and cook a fish) are accepted until the end of the merit badge period on Friday. Notes must be signed by Scoutmaster or adult leader.

After discussion is completed, begin fishing.

FRIDAY

Requirement 8

Explain what good outdoor sportsmanlike behavior is and how it relates to anglers. Explain the Outdoor Code of Ethics of Scouts BSA and how it relates to fishing sports enthusiasts. Include aspects of littering, trespassing, courteous behavior, and obeying fishing regulations.

This is the final hour to accept notes for Requirements 9 and 10. Extra time will be used for fishing.