



**TRAIL
LIFE
USA**

Fishing

Name _____

As you enjoy the sport of fishing, remember to be respectful and a good steward of the environment that God has given us and to follow all the applicable laws. For safety, appropriate adult supervision is required for all fishing activities including handling fishing tackle, practice casting, fishing, cleaning fish, and cooking fish.

Do all of the following requirements (1-3)

- ____1. There are different types of places to fish including freshwater (streams, rivers, ponds, lakes, frozen lakes) and salt water (lakes, inshore ocean, and off-shore ocean). Make a chart identifying at least two fish to catch and the type of fishing tackle to use in each fishing place type. Note on your chart any fish you might catch that are poisonous or not edible.
- ____2. There are different types of rods, reels, and other fishing tackle for different kinds of fishing (baitcasting, spinning, pole and line, spincasting, fly fishing, and ice fishing). Describe at least two that would be used most in your area and do the following:
 - ____a. List fishing safety precautions and safety equipment.
 - ____b. **Demonstrate tying the fisherman's knot and explain its use.**
 - ____c. Demonstrate setting up a fishing rod, reel, and associated tackle for one of those types of fishing including baiting or fly tying as applicable.
 - ____d. Demonstrate the proper rod and reel skills for your chosen kind of fishing as taught to you by your mentor.
 - ____e. Demonstrate removing a fish from a hook.
 - ____f. Describe what to do for a fish that swallowed a hook.
- ____3. Go on three fishing trips on three separate days. On each of these fishing trips, you will need to do the following:

- _____a. Set up your rod, reel, and associated fishing tackle.
- _____b. Bait your hook or tie on your flies.
- _____c. Catch at least one fish on one of the trips.
- _____d. Remove any fish you catch from the hook and either release them or save them in a creel or other fish container.

Do one of the following two requirements (4-5)

- _____4. With appropriate adult supervision, clean a fish you caught, cook it, and eat it.
- _____5. Collect at least three recipes for cooking your catch. On a Troop, Unit, patrol or family fishing trip, prepare a meal of fish your group caught using one of your recipes.

Do three of the following optional requirements from any topic (6-17)

Fishing Techniques

- _____6. Start a tackle box. Include the basic necessities: fishing line, bobber, sinkers, a stringer, hooks, pliers, fillet knife and other sharp tools. Also include sunscreen, insect repellent and first aid basics.
- _____7. Explain the different kinds of bait: live, artificial and fresh. and explain the following:
 - _____a. How and where you would use each kind
 - _____b. Where to get bait
 - _____c. How to keep bait fresh
 - _____d. What to do with unused bait after you are done fishing? With adult supervision, learn how to put a variety of types of bait on the line.
- _____8. Demonstrate baiting fishing tackle with two different baits for each of the three types of bait (live, artificial, and fresh).
- _____9. Repeat parts c and d of requirement 2 for a second kind of fishing.
- _____10. Demonstrate an improvised fishing technique that is legal in your state. Possible methods might include improvised hooks and lines, soda bottle fishing, bucket or hat scooping, improvised spears, or barehand fishing (trout tickling).

Additional Fishing Experiences

On each of these fishing experiences, you will need to do the following:

- _____a. Set up your rod, reel, and associated fishing tackle.
 - _____b. Bait your hook or tie on your flies.
 - _____c. Catch at least one fish.
 - _____d. Remove any fish you catch from the hook and either release them or save them in a creel or other fish container.
- _____11. Go fishing at a different type of place from the three fishing trips of requirement 3.
- _____12. Go fishing and do a different kind of fishing from the three fishing trips of requirement 3 such as still-fishing, spin fishing, or trolling.
- _____13. Participate in a fishing contest.

Leadership and Mentoring

- _____14. Plan a fishing trip for a younger Unit or patrol. Teach them the safety precautions, laws and rules. With appropriate adult supervision, teach the younger Trailmen to fish.
- _____15. Plan and go on a father-son fishing trip with your Troop, Unit, or patrol. [Note: You may substitute a different adult family member or family friend within the constraints of youth protection requirements as circumstances dictate.]
- _____16. Prepare a list of interview questions including those listed below and then interview a fisherman. Describe the results of the interview.
- Why do you enjoy fishing?
 - Who taught you to fish?
 - What is your favorite type of fish to catch and why?
 - What helpful tips have you learned over the years?
- _____17. Invite someone from the local Department of Natural Resources, or an experienced local fisherman to talk to your Troop, Unit, or patrol about fishing. Ask them to cover at least the following topics:
- Fishing laws, rules and safety precautions
 - Who needs a fishing license and penalties for not having one
 - How fishing licenses and other types of regulations help maintain our natural resources

Trail Badge Mentor Signature

Date

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