

FLY FISHING MERIT BADGE WORKBOOK

This Scoutmaster Bucky Merit Badge Workbook is based off the current *Scouts BSA Requirements*.

Consider also using the Fly Fishing merit badge class preparation page for clarification and expectations when participating in a Scoutmaster Bucky merit badge opportunity ([online](#) or [in-person](#)).

<https://scoutmasterbucky.com/merit-badges/fly-fishing/>

Scout's
Name:

REQUIREMENT 1: Do the following:

REQUIREMENT 1 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.

Most likely hazards

Anticipate hazards

Prevent hazards

Mitigate hazards

Respond to hazards

Five safety practices

REQUIREMENT 1 B: Discuss the prevention of and treatment for health concerns that could occur while fly-fishing, including cuts and scratches, puncture wounds, insect bites, hypothermia, dehydration, heat exhaustion, heatstroke, and sunburn.

Cuts and scratches

Puncture wounds

Insect bites

Hypothermia

Dehydration

Heat exhaustion

Heatstroke

Sunburn

REQUIREMENT 1 C: Explain how to remove a hook that has lodged in your arm.

REQUIREMENT 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.

How to match a fly rod, line, and leader

Several types of fly lines and when each would be used

How to care for this equipment

REQUIREMENT 3: Demonstrate how to tie proper knots to prepare a fly rod for fishing:

- a. Tie backing to the arbor of a fly reel spool using an arbor knot.
- b. Tie backing to the fly line using a nail knot.
- c. Attach a leader to the fly line using a nail knot or a loop-to-loop connection.
- d. Add a tippet to a leader using a surgeon's knot or a loop-to-loop connection.
- e. Tie a fly onto the terminal end of the leader using an improved clinch knot.

REQUIREMENT 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

When they are used

What it imitates

Tied this type of fly

Wet flies

When they are used

What it imitates

Tied this type of fly

Nymphs

When they are used

What it imitates

Tied this type of fly

Streamers

When they are used

What it imitates

Tied this type of fly

Bass bugs

When they are used

What it imitates

Tied this type of fly

Poppers

When they are used

What it imitates

Tied this type of fly

Saltwater flies

When they are used

What it imitates

Tied this type of fly

REQUIREMENT 5: Demonstrate the ability to cast a fly 30 feet consistently and accurately using both overhead and roll cast techniques.

Overhead cast

Roll cast

REQUIREMENT 6: Go to a suitable fishing location and observe what fish may be eating both above and beneath the water's surface. Explain the importance of matching the hatch.

REQUIREMENT 7: Do the following:

REQUIREMENT 7 A: Explain the importance of practicing Leave No Trace techniques. Discuss the positive effects of Leave No Trace on fly-fishing resources.

Importance of practicing Leave No Trace techniques

Positive effects of Leave No Trace

REQUIREMENT 7 B: Discuss the meaning and importance of catch and release. Describe how to properly release a fish safely to the water.

Meaning and importance of catch and release

How to properly release a fish safely to the water

REQUIREMENT 8: Obtain and review a copy of the regulations affecting game fishing where you live or where you plan to fish. Explain why they were adopted and what is accomplished by following them.

--

REQUIREMENT 9: Discuss what good 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, "catch and release," and obeying fishing regulations.

What good sportsmanlike behavior is and how it relates to anglers

How the Outdoor Code of the Boy Scouts of America relates to a fishing enthusiast

REQUIREMENT 10: Catch at least one fish using a fly rod and a fly. Identify it and quickly release it live back into the water. Discuss this experience with your counselor.

<input type="checkbox"/> Completed	Type of fish

REQUIREMENT 11: If regulations and health concerns permit, clean and cook a fish you have caught. If you are unable to catch a fish for eating, acquire a fish, clean the fish you acquired, and cook the fish you acquired. (It is not required that you eat the fish.)

<input type="checkbox"/> Completed
