

# Cub Scout Fishing Adventures Supplement



**Presented by the Scouting America  
National Fishing Leadership Team**

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## Cub Scout Fishing Adventures Supplement

### Suggestions for all Cub Scout Ranks

1. Follow the guidelines found in [The Guide to Safe Scouting](#).
2. Use the [Scouting America SAFE Checklist](#) to plan what you need for your fishing experience.
3. Make sure that your youth are carrying the Cub Scout Six Essentials:
  - First Aid Kit
  - Flashlight
  - Sun Protection
  - Full water bottle
  - Trail food
  - Whistle
4. Use barbless hooks or crush down the hook barbs (no treble hooks).
5. Dress appropriately for the weather conditions.
6. Follow the [Outdoor Code](#).

As an American, I will do my best to:

  - Be clean in my outdoor manners.
  - Be careful with fire.
  - Be considerate in the outdoors.
  - Be conservation minded.
7. Follow the principles of [Leave No Trace](#) for Fishing.
8. Use two-deep leadership. If possible, locate qualified Angling Educators or Certified Angling Instructors through your local Council to help you.
9. Take a [Fishing Basics](#) class from a Scouting America Angling Educator or Certified Angling Instructor.

Here are some examples of how, as an adult, you can apply the SAFE Checklist to the Fishing Adventures.

### Supervision

1. Adults should bait the hooks and remove fish from hooks. See: [Baiting a Hook with a Worm](#) – from Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and [How to Remove the Hook From the Fish](#) – from TakeMeFishing.org

## Assess

1. Inspect the site that you will fish prior to the outing. Check for any areas that could pose a danger to the scouts, such as steep banks, rocks, etc.
2. Cubs, Webelos and Arrow of Light Scouts should only fish on still waters (ponds or lakes) for safety.
3. Visit [Take Me Fishing: Places to Fish](#) – from TakeMeFishing.org, or your state natural resource agency to identify where to fish. You can also find potential fishing spots in your area by using Google Maps, visiting local tackle shops, or asking a local fishing club.

## Fitness and Skill

1. Demonstrate how to cast a fixed-line cane pole or telescoping crappie pole by raising the tip of the pole and allowing the line and bait to swing forward into the water, or practice using a casting game such as Backyard Bass or Big Lunker. Avoid back- or side-casting with a fixed-line pole. Visit [Fishing with Cane Poles](#) (26 minutes long) – from Into the Outdoors. This is a fun and helpful video.
2. Have the scout yell “Fish On!” and clear the immediate area as the scout is bringing in the fish.
3. When caught, fish should be brought in by slowly lifting the tip of the pole upright and then securing the fish.
4. Always wet your hands before handling fish and teach the proper technique of handling a fish. For spiny fish such as sunfish, slide your hand downward from the nose to fold down the fins. For catfish, slowly slide your hand from the tail upward to avoid the barbs. It is highly recommended that an adult coach the scout to handle the fish.

## Equipment and Environment

1. Smaller Cub Scouts should use simple gear, such as cane poles, telescoping crappie poles or spincast rods.
2. Have a backup plan such as Backyard Bass, Big Lunker or another casting game ready for practice casting or in case the fish are not biting.
3. Fish only on still waters (ponds or lakes). If fishing from a dock or sea wall, non-swimmers should wear a Personal Flotation Device (PFD).
4. Wearing a hat, eye protection, and sunscreen are highly recommended for comfort and safety.
5. When not fishing, a pole or rod should be held upright so it won’t poke anyone.

## Lion - Kindergarten

1	Go Fish	Outdoors	Elective	With your Lion adult partner, learn the rules of fishing safely.
2	Go Fish	Outdoors	Elective	Draw a picture of the type of fish you think lives in the water where you are going fishing.
3	Go Fish	Outdoors	Elective	Go fishing with your Lion adult partner.

### How to bring these requirements to life:

**1. With your Lion adult partner, learn the rules of fishing safely.**

- Fish with proper supervision.
- Get permission to fish where you plan to fish.
- Check the weather before you go. Do not fish in a thunderstorm or inclement (bad) weather.
- Use the buddy system. You must be able to see them at all times.
- Give plenty of room to others who are nearby.
- Never fish where people are swimming.

**2. Draw a picture of the type of fish you think lives in the water where you are going fishing.**

- Download the US Fish and Wildlife Service [coloring book](#).

**3. Go fishing with your Lion adult partner.**

- Keep it simple; make it fun. Refer to the [Fishing Basics](#) presentation to see some basic rigs, fishing techniques and safety guidelines for fishing with your Lion Scout.
- Follow the [Outdoor Code](#) and [Leave No Trace](#) Principles for Fishing.

## Tiger – 1st Grade

1	Fish On	Outdoors	Elective	With your den or Tiger adult partner, identify the body of water where you will go fishing.
2	Fish On	Outdoors	Elective	With your Tiger adult partner, learn the rules of fishing safely.
3	Fish On	Outdoors	Elective	Draw a picture of the type of fish you think lives in the water where you are going fishing.
4	Fish On	Outdoors	Elective	Go fishing with your Tiger adult partner.

### How to bring these requirements to life:

- 1. With your den or Tiger adult partner, identify the body of water where you will go fishing.**
  - Visit [Take Me Fishing: Places to Fish](#), or your state natural resource agency to identify where to fish. You can also find potential fishing spots in your area by using Google Maps, visiting local tackle shops, or asking a local fishing club.
- 2. With your Tiger adult partner, learn the rules of fishing safely.**
  - Fish with proper supervision.
  - Get permission to fish where you plan to fish.
  - Check the weather before you go. Do not fish in a thunderstorm or inclement (bad) weather.
  - Use the buddy system. You must be able to see them at all times.
  - Give plenty of room to others who are nearby.
  - Never fish where people are swimming.
- 3. Draw a picture of the type of fish you think lives in the water where you are going fishing.**
  - Download the US Fish and Wildlife Service [coloring book](#).
- 4. Go fishing with your Tiger adult partner.**
  - Keep it simple; make it fun. Refer to the [Fishing Basics](#) presentation to see some basic rigs, fishing techniques and safety guides for fishing with your Tiger Scout.
  - Follow the [Outdoor Code](#) and [Leave No Trace](#) Principles for Fishing.

## Wolf – 2nd Grade

1	A Wolf Goes Fishing	Outdoors	Elective	Identify the type of water where you will be fishing and the types of fish that live in the water.
2	A Wolf Goes Fishing	Outdoors	Elective	Learn about the different types of bait used to attract fish.
3	A Wolf Goes Fishing	Outdoors	Elective	Demonstrate a proper cast for the pole or rod you are using.
4	A Wolf Goes Fishing	Outdoors	Elective	Learn the rules of fishing safely.
5	A Wolf Goes Fishing	Outdoors	Elective	With your den, pack, or family, go fishing.

### How to bring these requirements to life:

#### 1. Identify the type of water where you will be fishing and the types of fish that live in the water.

- Wolf Scouts should only fish on still waters (ponds or lakes) for safety. Visit Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation's [Take Me Fishing: Places to Fish](#), or your state natural resource agency to identify where to fish. You can also find potential fishing spots in your area by using Google Maps, visiting local tackle shops, or asking a local fishing club. Contact a state natural resource agency fisheries biologist to identify ponds or lakes near you with an ample supply of sunfish such as bluegills, crappie, green sunfish or other panfish to ensure that the cubs are likely to catch a fish within 15 minutes.
- Obtain a copy of your state's fishing guide or visit [Take Me Fishing: Fish Species](#) for photos and descriptions of fish that inhabit the waters that you will visit and learn about the fish in your region.

#### 2. Learn about the different types of bait used to attract fish.

- Use live bait - worms, grubs, crickets or other natural baits used in your area to maximize the opportunity for success.
- Check with your local bait shop to determine what baits work best.

#### 3. Demonstrate a proper cast for the pole or rod you are using.

- Visit [Scout Life Fishing](#) and read about the essential fishing gear needed to get started, and visit [Fishing Basics](#): Basic Fishing Tackle.

#### 4. Learn the rules of fishing safely.

- Fish with proper supervision.

- Get permission to fish where you plan to fish.
- Check the weather before you go. Do not fish in a thunderstorm or inclement (bad) weather.
- Use the buddy system. You must be able to see them at all times.
- Give plenty of room to others who are nearby.
- Never fish where people are swimming.

**5. With your den, pack, or family, go fishing.**

- Keep it simple; make it fun. Refer to the [Fishing Basics](#) to see some basic rigs, fishing techniques and safety guides for fishing with your Wolf Scout.
- Follow the [Outdoor Code](#) and [Leave No Trace](#) Principles for Fishing.

## Bear – 3rd Grade

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

### How to bring these requirements to life:

**1. Learn about three types of fish in your area.**

- Obtain a copy of your state’s fishing guide or visit [Take Me Fishing: Fish Species](#) (non-Scouting site) for photos and descriptions of fish that inhabit the waters that you will visit and learn about the fish in your region.

**2. Learn about your local fishing regulations with your den leader or an adult.**

- Obtain a copy of your state’s fishing guide (print or online) to learn about your state’s fishing regulations.

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

- Discuss what length limits and bag limits are and how they protect the fishery.
- Discuss why anglers need to purchase fishing licenses and how the funds support [conservation](#) (non-Scout website).

**4. Become familiar with the safe use of the fishing equipment you will be using on your outing, including eye protection, hat, and barbless hooks.**

**Supervision**

- Scouts should bait the hooks and remove fish from hooks with supervision. See two good non-Scouting videos: [Baiting a Hook with a Worm](#) and [How to Remove the Hook From the Fish](#) for tips.

#### **Assessment**

- Inspect the site that you will fish prior to the outing. Check for any areas that could pose a danger to the Cubs such as steep banks, rocks, etc.
- Have a backup plan such as Backyard Bass or other casting game ready for practice, or in case the fish are not biting.

#### **Fitness and Skill**

- Have the Den see the [Fishing Basics](#) presentation to learn basic fishing skills.

#### **Equipment and Environment**

- Scouts should fish with barbless hooks (no treble hooks). Use fixed-line poles (a cane pole or crappie pole) or spin-cast rod outfits. Visit [Scout Life Fishing](#) and read about the essential fishing gear needed to get started, and visit [Fishing Basics: Basic Fishing Tackle](#).

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

- Go to the [Fishing Basics](#) presentation to see how to tie an improved clinch knot.
- Visit any of the following sites to learn about fishing knots: [Take Me Fishing: Knots](#) or [Knots 3D](#) or [Animated Knots](#) or [101 Knots](#) or [Net Knots](#). These are not Scouting America websites.

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

- Keep it simple; make it fun. Refer to the [Fishing Basics](#) presentation to see some basic rigs, fishing techniques and safety guides for fishing with your Bear Scout.
- Bear Scouts should only fish on still waters (ponds or lakes) for safety. Visit Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation's [Take Me Fishing: Places to Fish](#), or your state natural resource agency to identify where to fish. You can also find potential fishing spots in your area by using Google Maps, visiting local tackle shops, or asking a local fishing club. Contact a state natural resource agency fisheries biologist to identify ponds or lakes near you with an ample supply of sunfish such as bluegills, crappie, green sunfish or other panfish to ensure that the cubs are likely to catch a fish within 15 minutes.
- Follow the [Outdoor Code](#) and [Leave No Trace](#) Principles for Fishing.

## Webelos – 4th Grade

1	Catch the Big One	Outdoors	Elective	Create a plan to go fishing. Determine where you will go and what type of fish you plan to catch. All the following requirements are to be completed based on your choice.
2	Catch the Big One	Outdoors	Elective	Use the Scouting America SAFE Checklist to plan what you need for your fishing experience.
3	Catch the Big One	Outdoors	Elective	Describe the environment where the fish might be found.
4	Catch the Big One	Outdoors	Elective	Make a list of the equipment and materials you will need to fish.
5	Catch the Big One	Outdoors	Elective	Determine the best type of knot to tie your hook to your line and tie it.
6	Catch the Big One	Outdoors	Elective	Choose the appropriate type of fishing rod and tackle you will be using. Have an adult review your gear.
7	Catch the Big One	STEM: Science	Elective	Using what you have learned about fish and fishing equipment, spend at least an hour fishing following local guidelines and regulations.

### How to bring these requirements to life:

1. **Create a plan to go fishing. Determine where you will go and what type of fish you plan to catch. All of the following requirements are to be completed based on your choice.**
  - Webelos Scouts should only fish on still waters, ponds, or lakes for safety. Visit Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation’s [Take Me Fishing: Places to Fish](#), or your state natural resource agency to identify where to fish. You can also find potential fishing spots in your area by using Google Maps, visiting local tackle shops, or asking a local fishing club. Contact a state natural resource agency fisheries biologist to identify ponds or lakes near you with an ample supply of sunfish such as bluegills, crappies, green sunfish or other panfish to ensure that the cubs are likely to catch a fish within 15 minutes.
  - Obtain a copy of your state’s fishing guide or visit [Take Me Fishing: Fish Species](#) for photos and descriptions of fish that inhabit the waters that you will visit and learn about the fish in your region.
2. **Use the [Scouting America SAFE Checklist](#) to plan what you need for your fishing experience.**

### Supervision

- Scouts should bait the hooks and remove fish from hooks with supervision. See two good non-Scouting videos: [Baiting a Hook with a Worm](#) and [How to Remove the Hook From the Fish](#) for tips.

### Assessment

- Inspect the site that you will fish prior to the outing. Check for any areas that could pose a danger to the Cubs such as steep banks, rocks, etc.
- Have a backup plan such as [Backyard Bass](#), [Big Lunker](#) or other casting games ready in case the fish are not biting.

### Fitness and Skill

- Have the Den see the Scouting America [Fishing Basics](#) presentation.

### Equipment and Environment

- Fish with barbless hooks and use no treble hooks. Use fixed-line poles (a cane pole or crappie pole) or spincast rod outfits.

### 3. Describe the environment where the fish might be found.

- Using the internet, research state fishing brochures and ask experienced anglers to learn about where fish live.

### 4. Make a list of the equipment and materials you will need to fish.

- Visit the [Fishing Basics](#) presentation to learn about fishing equipment.

### 7. Determine the best type of knot to tie your hook to your line and tie it.

- Go to the [Fishing Basics](#) presentation to see how to tie an improved clinch knot.
- Visit any of the following sites to learn about fishing knots: [Take Me Fishing: Knots](#) or [Knots 3D](#) or [Animated Knots](#) or [101 Knots](#) or [Net Knots](#). These are not Scouting America websites.

### 5. Choose the appropriate type of fishing rod and tackle you will be using. Have an adult review your gear.

- Visit Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation's [Take Me Fishing: Gear](#) to learn about basic fishing equipment.

### 6. Using what you have learned about fish and fishing equipment, spend at least an hour fishing following local guidelines and regulations.

- Keep it simple; make it fun. Refer to the [Fishing Basics](#) to see some basic rigs, fishing techniques and safety guides for fishing with your Webelos Scout.
- Follow the [Outdoor Code](#) and [Leave No Trace](#) Principles for Fishing.

## AOL Arrow of Light - 5th Grade

1	Fishing	Outdoors	Elective	Make a plan to go fishing. Determine where you will go and what type of fish you plan to catch. All of the following requirements are to be completed based on your choice.
2	Fishing	Outdoors	Elective	Use the Scouting America SAFE Checklist to plan what you need for your fishing experience.
3	Fishing	Outdoors	Elective	Describe the environment where the fish might be found.
4	Fishing	Outdoors	Elective	Make a list of the equipment and materials you will need to fish.
5	Fishing	Outdoors	Elective	Determine the best type of knot to tie your hook to your line and tie it.
6	Fishing	Outdoors	Elective	On your own, choose the appropriate type of fishing rod and tackle you will be using. Have an adult review your gear.
7	Fishing	Outdoors	Elective	Using what you have learned about fish and fishing equipment, spend at least an hour fishing following local guidelines and regulations.

### How to bring these requirements to life:

- 1. Create a plan to go fishing. Determine where you will go and what type of fish you plan to catch. All the following requirements are to be completed based on your choice.**
  - AOL Scouts should only fish on still waters (ponds or lakes) for safety. Visit [Take Me Fishing: Places to Fish](#) (a non-Scouting website) or your state natural resource agency to identify where to fish. You can also find potential fishing spots in your area by using Google Maps, visiting local tackle shops, or asking a local fishing club. Contact a state natural resource agency fisheries biologist to identify ponds or lakes near you with an ample supply of sunfish such as bluegills, crappie or green sunfish or other panfish to ensure that the cubs are likely to catch a fish within 15 minutes.
  - Obtain a copy of your state's fishing guide print or online for photos and descriptions of the fish that swim in the waters that you will fish or visit [www.takemefishing.org/fish-species](http://www.takemefishing.org/fish-species) and learn about the fish in your region.
- 2. Use the Scouting America SAFE Checklist to plan what you need for your fishing experience.**

### **Supervision**

- Scouts should bait the hooks and remove fish from hooks with supervision. See two good non-Scouting videos: [Baiting a Hook with a Worm](#) and [How to Remove the Hook From the Fish](#) for tips.

### **Assessment**

- Inspect the site that you will fish prior to the outing.
- Check for any areas that could pose a danger to the Cubs such as steep banks, rocks, etc.
- Have a backup plan such as Backyard Bass, Big Lunker or other casting game ready for practice casting or in case the fish are not biting.

### **Fitness and Skill**

- Have the Den see the Scouting America [Fishing Basics](#) presentation.

### **○ Equipment and Environment**

- Cubs should fish with barbless hooks (no treble hooks). Use fixed-line poles (a cane pole or crappie pole) or spin-cast outfits.

### **3. Describe the environment where the fish might be found.**

- Fish can be found in ponds, lakes, rivers, streams, swamps and oceans. Pick a fish species living in your area and learn about the adaptations that help them survive in their environment.
- Using the internet, research state fishing brochures and ask experienced anglers to learn about where fish live.

### **4. Make a list of the equipment and materials you will need to fish.**

- Visit [Scout Life Fishing](#) and read about the essential fishing gear needed to get started, and visit [Fishing Basics](#): Basic Fishing Tackle.

### **5. Determine the best type of knot to tie your hook to your line and tie it.**

- Go to the [Fishing Basics](#) presentation to see how to tie an improved clinch knot.
- Visit any of the following sites to learn about fishing knots: [Take Me Fishing: Knots](#) or [Knots 3D](#) or [Animated Knots](#) or [101 Knots](#) or [Net Knots](#). These are not Scouting America websites.

### **6. Choose the appropriate type of fishing rod and tackle you will be using. Have an adult review your gear.**

- Visit [Fishing Basics](#) presentation or [Take Me Fishing](#) (a non-Scouting site) to learn about basic equipment.

**7. Using what you have learned about fish and fishing equipment, spend at least an hour fishing following local guidelines and regulations.**

- Keep it simple; make it fun. See the [Fishing Basics](#) presentation to see some basic rigs, fishing techniques and safety guides for fishing with your AOL Scout.
- Follow the [Outdoor Code](#) and [Leave No Trace](#) Principles for Fishing.