



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 # 35899. Merit Badge Workbooks and much more are below: [Online Resources](#).
Workbook developer: egutmann@americanwoodcrafters.com. Requirements revised: 2010, Workbook updated: June 2010.

Scout's Name: _____ Unit: _____

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

1) Discuss the prevention of and treatment for the following health concerns that could occur while fishing, including:

cuts, scratches, _____

puncture wounds, _____

insect bites, _____

hypothermia, _____

dehydration, _____

and heat reactions. _____

Explain how to remove a hook that has lodged in your arm. _____

Name and explain five safety practices you should always follow while fishing. _____

2) Discuss the differences between two types of fishing outfits. Type 1: _____

Type 2: _____ Differences: _____

Point out and identify the parts of several types of rods and reels. Explain how and when each would be used. Review with your counselor how to care for this equipment.

Example of a Spinning Rod & Reel



How used: _____

When used: _____

Care: _____

Example of a Salt Water Trolling Rod & Reel



Example of an Ice Fishing Rod & Reel



How used: _____

When used: _____

Care: _____

Example of a Fly Fishing Rod & Reel



3) *Demonstrate* the proper use of two different types of fishing equipment. _____

4) *Demonstrate* how to tie the following knots: clinch, palomar, turle, blood loop (barrel knot), and the double surgeon's loop. Explain how and when each knot is used.

clinch, _____

palomar, _____

turle, _____

blood loop (barrel knot), _____

and the double surgeon's loop. _____

5) Name and identify five Artificial Lures and explain how to fish with them. *(Here are some examples)*



Name and Identify five Natural Baits and explain how to fish with them:

Explain why baitfish are not to be released. _____

6) Explain the importance of practicing Leave No Trace techniques. Discuss the positive effects of Leave No Trace on fishing resources. _____

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

7) Obtain and review the regulations affecting game fishing where you live. Explain why they were adopted and what you accomplish by following them.

8) Explain 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 sports enthusiast, including the aspects of littering, trespassing, courteous behavior, and obeying fishing regulations. _____

9) 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 Scout Merit Badge Workbooks: www.usscouts.org -or- www.meritbadge.org

Merit Badge Books: www.scoutstuff.org

Requirement Resources:

1: **First Aid:** See http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/First_Aid

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>

4: **Fishing Lures**

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

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

5: **Leave No Trace** (see next page)

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

7: **Outdoor Code** (see next page)

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

General Resources:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nat. Fish and Wildlife Foundation: <http://www.nfwf.org>

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

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

Clinch Knot

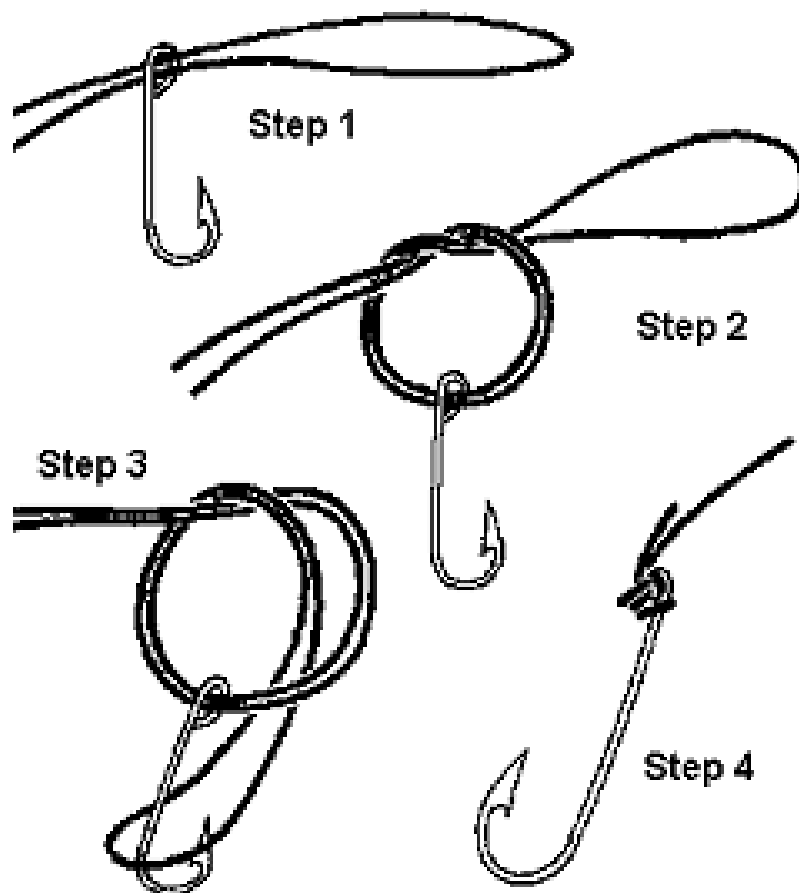
1. Pass the line through the eye of the hook, or swivel.
2. Double back. make five turns around the line.
3. Pass the end of the line through the first loop, above the eye, and then through the large loop. Draw the knot into shape.
4. Slide the coils down tight against the eye.



Palomar Knot

The Palomar Knot is another very simple knot for terminal tackle. It is regarded by the International Game Fish Association consistently as the strongest knot known. It's great virtue is that it can safely be tied at night with a minimum of practice.

1. Double about 12.5cm of line, and pass through the eye.
2. Tie a simple Overhand Knot in the doubled line, letting the hook hang loose. Avoid twisting the lines.
3. Pull the end of loop down, passing it completely over the hook.
4. Pull both ends of the line to draw up the knot.



Turle knot

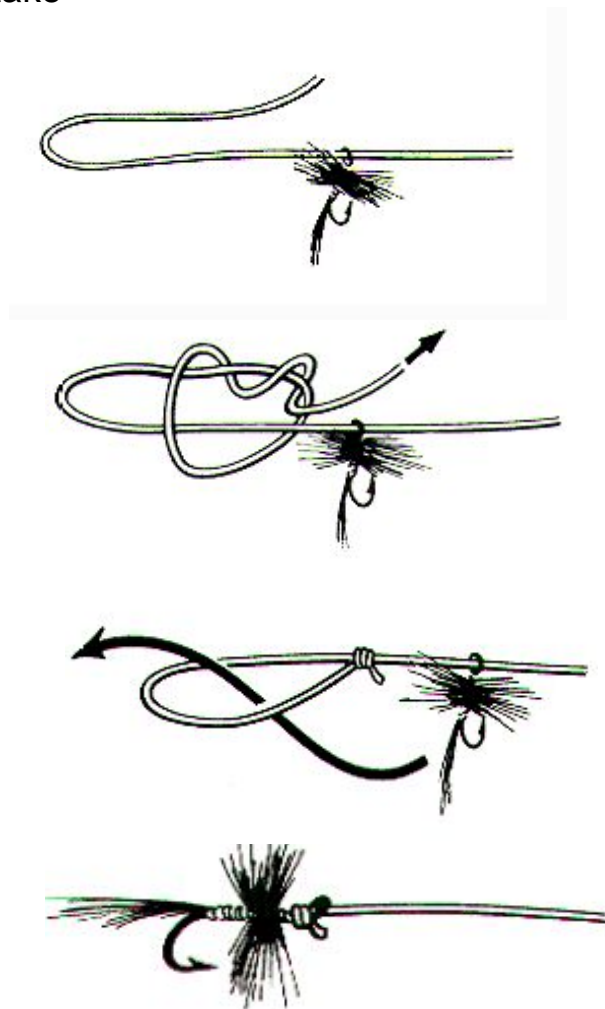
The Turle knot is often used in Salmon fly fishing with up eyed irons. The actual knot sits at the top of the hook shank behind the eye with the line coming through the eye parallel to the shank. This helps the fly swim straight in running water in effect optimizing fly presentation to the fish.

Step 1: Slide the fly up the line and keep away from the knot.

Step 2: Form the first part of the knot as shown and pull this part tight leaving an open loop at the end.

Step 3: Slide the fly down the line to the knot and slip it through the loop. Hold the eye between the fingers and pull on the main-line closing the loop at the eye of the hook.

Step 4: The completed knot allows the fly to swim parallel and straight to the mainline. With other knots the fly often sits at an odd angle relevant to the mainline putting fish off the final take



Blood Knot - Joining Line To Line

There are two top grade knots used to join one line to another, where these are approximately of the same thickness. These are the Blood Knot and the Uni.

1. Lie the ends of the two lines against each other, overlapping about 15cm.
2. Take 5 turns around one line with the end of the other, and bring the end back where it's held between the two lines.
3. Repeat by taking 5 turns around the other line, bringing the end back between the two lines. These two ends should then project in opposite directions.
4. Work the knot up into loops, taking care that the two ends do not slip out of position.
5. Draw the knot up tightly.

Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



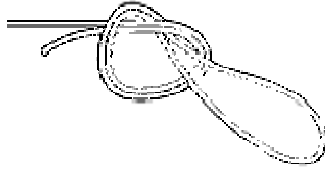
Step 4



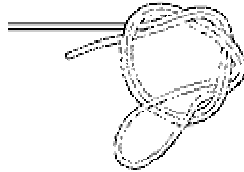
Double Surgeon's Loop

The **Double Surgeon's Loop** is a quick , easy way to tie a loop in the end of a leader. It is often used as part of a leader system because it is relatively strong.

1 - Double the tag end of the line. Make a single overhand knot in the double line.



2 - Hold the tag end and standing part of the line in your left hand and bring the loop around and insert through the overhand knot.



3 - Hold the loop in your right hand. hold the tag end and the standing line in your left hand.



4 - Moisten the knot in water and pull to tighten. Trim tag end to about 1/8 inch.

