



Taking Cub Scouts Fishing!



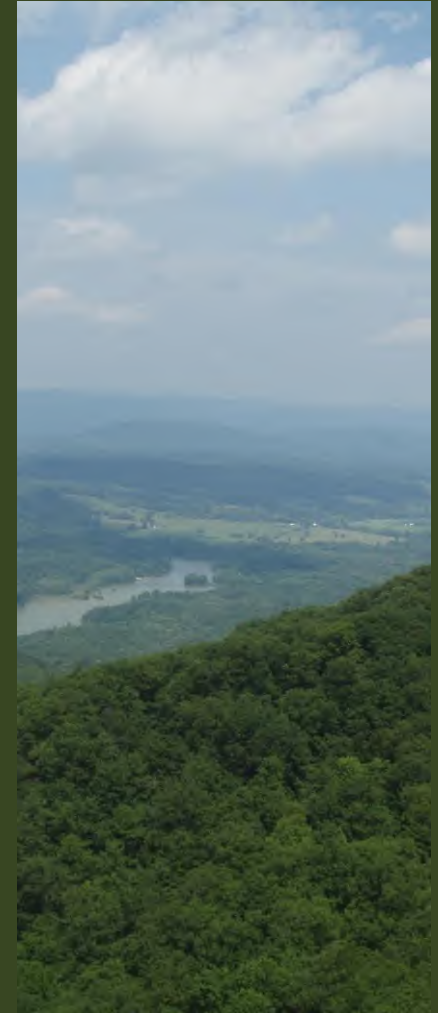
Outdoor Ethics & Conservation Roundtable

May 13, 2026



Agenda

- Welcome and opening
- Safety moment
- Taking Cub Scouts Fishing!
- Announcements
- Closing
- Open discussion



Paul Schimke, National Capitol
Area Council



Pledge

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.





Scout Oath

On my honor I will do my best
to do my duty to God and my country
and to obey the Scout Law;
to help other people at all times;
to keep myself physically strong,
mentally awake, and morally straight.





Scout Law

A Scout is:
Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful,
Friendly, Courteous, Kind,
Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty,
Brave, Clean, Reverent.





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.





Fishing Safety

Michelle Bierstedt, Sioux Council



John Kinney, Twin Rivers Council

Safety Moment



FISHING SAFETY

Stay Safe While Fishing

Always use the buddy system.

Let others know where you are fishing and when you will meet or return.

Dress appropriately for the weather.

Be observant to ensure that no one is in harm's way while you are casting.

Watch for steep inclines at the water's edge and for rocks and stumps while wading.

If someone is hooked, all parties must stop and not move. Remove the hook only if it is on the surface of the skin or on the clothing; otherwise, seek help for proper hook removal.

Safety glasses or sunglasses are highly recommended.

A large-brim hat is advisable to prevent overheating, reduce glare, and fend off any stray hooks coming your way.

Be sure to have ample drinking water to avoid dehydration.

Review the standard safety procedures concerning cuts, scratches, and other wounds.

Understand that hypothermia can be a risk even during the summer months, and be sure you know how to prevent and treat heat exhaustion and heatstroke.

A fishing rod can become a lightning rod. During thunderstorms, set your rod down until the weather clears.



Leave No Trace Fishing

According to the US Forest Service, monofilament fishing line takes 500 years to photodegrade. Fishing line can be an entanglement hazard to both wildlife and people swimming or spending time on the shoreline.





Taking Cub Scouts Fishing!

Pastor Scott Johnston, Shenandoah Council



Scouting.org



Scouting America Outdoor Ethics & Conservation Virtual RoundTable

Taking Cub Scouts Fishing



This Outdoor Ethics and Conservation Roundtable is dedicated to all the Scouting America volunteers who prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetime for the stewardship of the natural aquatic world.



It is said that Baden-Powell often used the fisherman's prayer quote: "Lord suffer me to catch a fish so large that even I in talking of it afterwards, shall have no reason to lie"



Prepared. For Life.®

Bc / Scoutingf America - Outdoor Ethics - All Rights Reserved

Cub Scout fishing is a popular outdoor program for boys and girls (kindergarten-5th grade) focusing on safety, skill-building, and fun rather than proficiency.

Activities include rod handling, knot tying, and environmental stewardship, often culminating in fishing derbies.

Over the past many years fishing consistently ranked as a top activity for Cub Scouts, with surveys indicating that 71% are interested in learning to fish, and 90% of youth wanting to participate.

But before “Taking a Cub Scout Fishing” the following should be considered!





Safety tips:

Here are some examples of how, as an adult, you can apply the SAFE Checklist to the Fishing Adventures. Scouts and their parents expect all Scouting America activities to be conducted safely. To ensure the safety of participants, Scouting America expects leaders to use the four points of SAFE when delivering the Scouting program

Supervision

1. For Cub scouts, adults should bait the hooks and remove fish from hooks.

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 states 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.



Safety tips: continued



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.
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 using the EDGE method coach the scout to handle the fish.





Safety tips: continued

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, all who fish 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



Prepared. For Life.®

Taking Cub Scouts Fishing can start with:

The **Cub Scout Fishing Adventures Supplement**. It provides a comprehensive guide for planning, safety, and skills for youth in kindergarten through fifth grades.

1. Follow the guidelines found in The Guide to Safe Scouting. Safety Afloat Guidelines, Safe Swim Defense, Aquatics Supervision, Paddle Craft Safety (if needed), 1st Aid, Suba Diving 1st Aid (if needed) and CPR training are essential to safeguard all aquatic activities.
2. Make sure that your youth are carrying the Cub Scout Six Essentials:
 - First Aid Kit o Full water bottle.
 - Flashlight.
 - Trail food.
 - Sun Protection.
 - Whistle.
3. Use barbless hooks or crush down the hook barbs (no treble hooks).
4. Dress appropriately for the weather conditions.
5. **Follow the Outdoor Code**.



Prepared. For Life.®

Bc / Scoutingf America - Outdoor Ethics - All Rights Reserved



**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.



Prepared. For Life.®

Boys' Life / Scouting America - Outdoor Ethics - All Rights Reserved

Cub Scout Fishing Adventures Supplement (continued):

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



Follow the principles of Leave No Trace for Fishing.

The following principles are made possible
in part by our Proud Partnership with



1. Know before you go / Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Know the local fishing and boating regulations for the area where you'll fish. Obtain licenses and stamps and have them with you.
- Use a personal floatation device (PFD) where required and/or appropriate.
- Learn to identify the different species of fish in the area where you'll be fishing.
- Obey the limits on size or slot limits and quantity of fish you are allowed to keep. Abide by regulations concerning types of bait and tackle permitted where you are fishing.
- Prepare for extreme weather, hazards and emergencies.
- Plan your trip to avoid times of high use.



Scoutmaster Outdoors
Aug 21, 2022



Prepared. For Life.®

Bc / Scoutingf America - Outdoor Ethics - All Rights Reserved

Council Activity Ideas:

- **Host a council Fishing Derby** : Invite families to a local pond for a morning, utilizing simple tackle. Encourage scouts to bring friends for recruitment.
- **"Cast and Catch" Games**: Practice casting accuracy using "Backyard Bass" or hula hoops as targets before trying to catch real fish.
- **DIY Tackle Workshop**: Teach scouts to make their own fishing gear, such as creating a rod from a stick or using a pool noodle as a bobber.
- **Pack Fishing Derby & Potluck**: Combine fishing with a family picnic, encouraging parents and scouts to share their "best fish tales".
- **Winter Ice Fishing**: For colder climates, host a safe, supervised ice fishing trip to learn specialized techniques.



The Ridge-and-Valley Appalachians of Western Maryland Washington County, offers several youth fishing events designed to teach kids (ages 3–15) how to fish in a safe, fun environment.

Key 2026 Youth Fishing Events in Washington County

- Boonsboro Annual Fishing Derby (May 2, 2026):** Held from 8 AM to Noon at Shafer Park, this is a popular community event for young anglers.
- Fort Ritchie Bass Fishing Tournament (June 13, 2026):** Located in Cascade, this event is open to all ages, allowing families to fish together.
- Hagerstown Fishing Frenzy (Typically June):** An annual event often held at Pangborn Park in Hagerstown, frequently featuring stocked trout and registration.
- Maryland Youth Fishing Rodeos (March–October):** The MD DNR sponsors various local rodeos designed for beginners to catch their first fish.
- Additional [Maryland DNR Youth Fishing Rodeos](#) are held throughout the season



Maryland's Coastal Area fishing clubs and organizations in the Maryland/Delaware region host annual kids' fishing derbies, often designed for ages 3–15 to learn fishing basics.

Key Fishing Clubs and Derby Hosts (MD/Regional) supported by the **Maryland Department of Natural Resources** offer youth fishing programs.

Prominent events include:

- **Ocean City Marlin Club**: Hosts the July Annual Kid's Classic for anglers 19 and younger, featuring inshore/offshore categories and a celebratory awards party.
- **Pasadena Sportfishing Group (PSG)**: A non-profit that organizes two kids' fishing derbies annually to promote youth fishing, offering free registration, gear, and expert assistance.
- **Northwest Fishing Club**: Dedicated to Chesapeake Bay fishing, they sponsor an annual Kids Fishing Derby.
- **North Bay Fishing Club**: Hosts an annual kids' fishing tournament supported by local tackle shops and vendors.
- **Wicomico County Recreation & Parks**: Hosts a long-running annual Youth Fishing Derby in Salisbury for ages 15 and under.



Prepared. For Life.®

Bc / Scoutingf America - Outdoor Ethics - All Rights Reserved

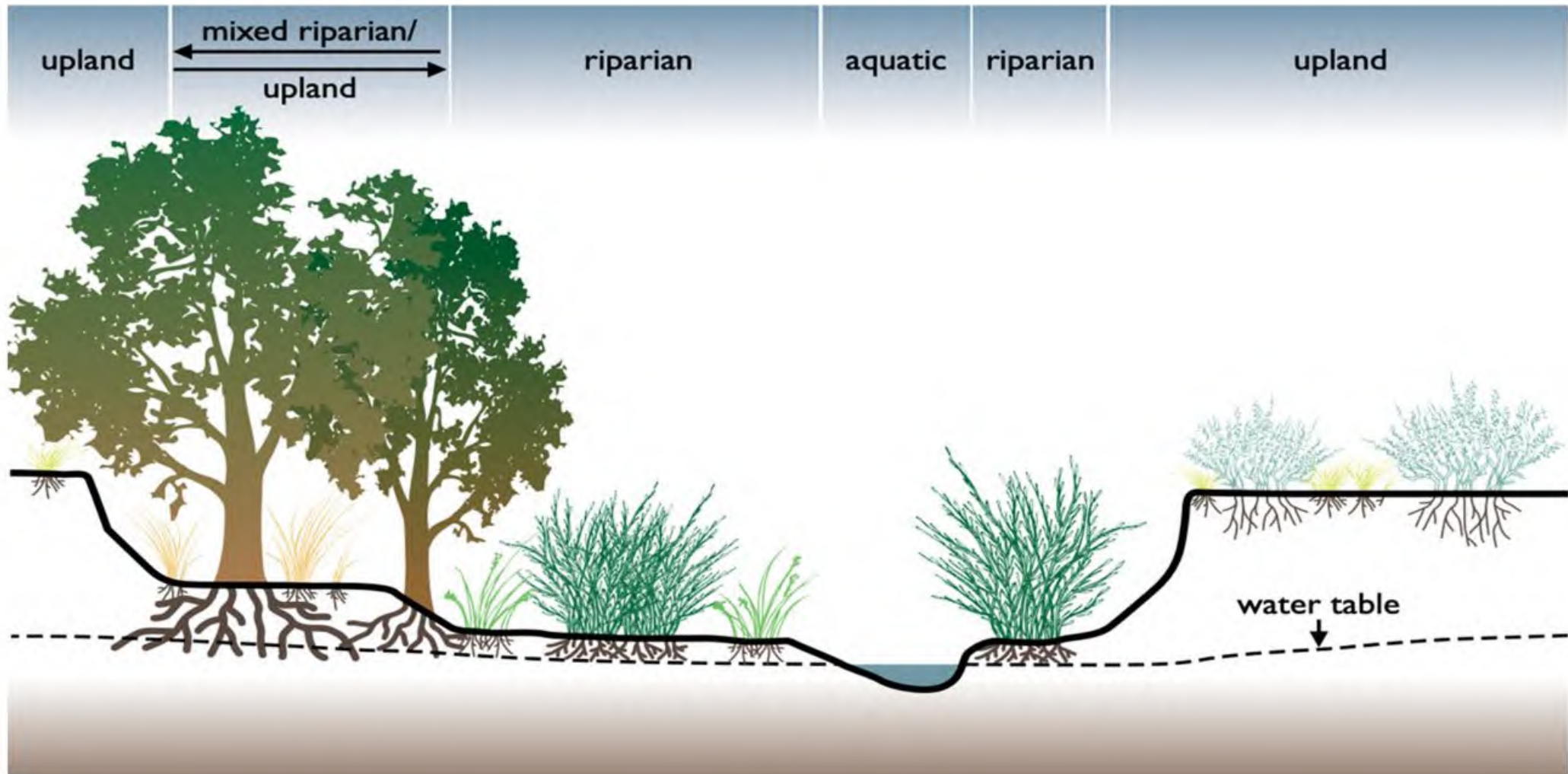
2. Choose the right path / Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

- Durable surfaces include rock, gravel, water, established trails and campsites, sand or snow.
- Concentrate use on existing trails, campsites, and boat launches.
- Focus activities in areas where vegetation is absent.
- Avoid trampling aquatic vegetation when wading. Refrain from wading in spawning areas when possible.
- Enter and leave water sources where the banks are low or there are gravel bars.
- In pristine areas disperse use to prevent the creation of new campsites and trails.
- Protect riparian areas by camping at least 200 feet from lakes and streams



Prepared. For Life.®

Bc / Scoutingf America - Outdoor Ethics - All Rights Reserved



Prepared. For Life.®

Bc / Scoutingf America - Outdoor Ethics - All Rights Reserved

3. Trash your Trash / Dispose of Waste Properly

- Pack it in, Pack it out. Inspect your camp and rest areas for trash or spoiled foods.
- Pack out all monofilament fishing line, leftover live bait and bait cups.
- Avoid using lead sinkers and jigs. If lead sinkers are found, pack out for proper disposal.
- Use established bathrooms when available. **Epecially with** Cub Scouts!!!! For older scouts, Webelos (4th grade) and Arrow of Light (5th grade), if a bathroom is not available deposit of solid waste in catholes dug 6 to 8 inches deep and 200 feet away from water sources.
- Check with local land managers for regulations on disposal of fish entrails. Pack out entrails when possible. If not possible, burial, deepwater deposition or moving water deposition are acceptable option in most areas.
- To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 200 feet away from streams or lakes and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Scatter strained dishwater.



Cleveland MetroParks April 30, 2026



Images: "Vastateparksstaff" (2015)



Images:"Gibson" (2022)



Prepared. For Life.®

Bc / Scoutingf America - Outdoor Ethics - All Rights Reserved

Do Your Part By Recycling Your Fishing Gear

As Cub Scouts on a fishing excursion, it is our responsibility to care for the aquatic environments we cherish. This commitment is not only for our own enjoyment but also for the enjoyment of future generations. Scouts can play a role in safeguarding these environments by disposing of your fishing gear responsibly.

Many scout councils, marinas and boat ramps now feature recycling bins for fishing line. This means you can help preserve your favorite fishing location with just a little extra effort. If there isn't a fishing line recycling container available in your area, that doesn't justify throwing your gear in the trash. Such an action would endanger wildlife on land.

You or your unit may also want to consider a **scouting conservation project** to build a recycle bin.

Since 2007, BoatUS has worked to make recycling old fishing line easier. They launched a Fishing Line Recycling program with grants from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and the NOAA's Marine Debris Program. Since then, our organization has built more than 2,000 recycling bins for fishing spots across the country and assisted other organizations and individual to build over 11,000 more. That's enabled anglers to properly dispose of more than 20,000 miles (and counting) of fishing line.



Boat U.S. Foundation June 6, 2022



Boat U.S. Foundation (n.d.)



Prepared. For Life.®

Bc / Scoutingf America - Outdoor Ethics - All Rights Reserved

4. Leave What You Find

- When practicing “catch and release” use barbless hooks and be sure not to injure the fish. Do not fight fish to exhaustion, use rod and line of sufficient strength, avoid suspending fish out of water by the fishing line. Keep fish in water when handling for release and do not touch gills.
- Carry and use needle-nose pliers or hemostats for hook removal,
- Take care not to introduce non-native species to wear source and (e.g. worms, minnows, leaches) and properly wash all equipment between fishing trip.
- Avoid transferring fish from one body of water to another.
- Prepare the past: observe, but do not touch, cultural or historic structures and artifacts.



Adult northern
snakehead fish
collected from a
Potomac River tributary
in Virginia.

U.S. Geological Survey Dept.



Prepared. For Life.®

5. Be Careful with Fire / Minimize Campfire Impacts

- Campfires can cause lasting impacts. Use lightweight stoves for cooking when possible.
- Where fires are permitted use established fire rings, mound fires or fire pans and consider bringing your own firewood.
- Keep fires small and use only dead and downed wood that can be broken by hand.
- Trash does not belong in the fire pit and usually doesn't burn completely.
- Burn all wood and charcoal to ash. Ensure that fire is completely out and properly dispose of cold ashes by scattering or packing out.



Image: "itoldya420" (pixabay.com 2016)



6. Respect Wildlife

- Respect fish by humanely dispatching catches you are keeping with a quick blow to the back of the head with a rock or solid object.
- Refrigerate or eat fish quickly to avoid wasting them. Check local regulations on using stringers.
- Use caution when cooking fish in bear country.
- Never feed wildlife. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behavior, and exposes them to predators and other dangers.
- Control pets or leave them at home.
- Avoid using lead sinkers and jigs. Practice sustainable fishing methods.

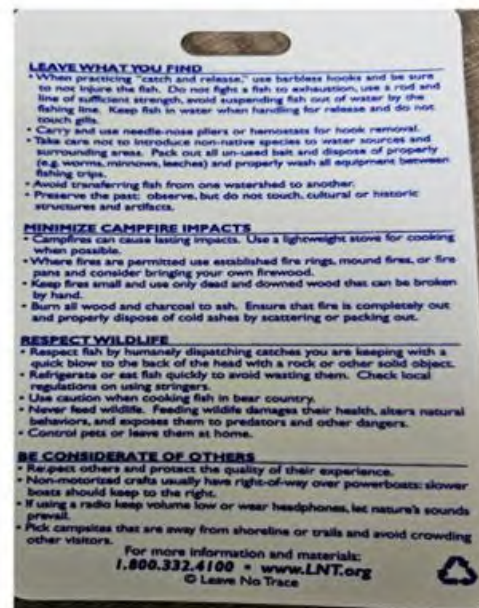


Image: "Gibson" (2022)



7. Be Kind to Others / Be Considerate of Others

- Respect others and protect the quality of their experience.
- Non-motorized crafts usually have the right-of-way over powerboats: slower boats should keep to the right.
- If using a radio keep volume low or wear headphones, let nature's sounds prevail.
- Pick campsite that are away from shoreline or trails and avoid crowding other visitors.



Prepared. For Life.®

Bc / Scoutingf America - Outdoor Ethics - All Rights Reserved

**Leave No Trace Fishing is not a program.
It is Scouting with moral and ethical decision making.**

Fish On



Prepared. For Life.®

Bc / Scoutingf America - Outdoor Ethics - All Rights Reserved

References:

BoatUSFoundation. Jun 6, 2022. Why You Should Recycle Your Fishing Line. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J_TB9C6-vi4&t=3s.

Cleveland Metroparks. April 30, 2026. How-To Leave No Trace While Fishing. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SgdZ3S-hX5k&t=2s>.

Leave No Trace. (n.d.). Leave No Trace Reference Cards: Considerations for Fishing,

Scouting America. 2025. Cub Scouts|Fishing|Scouting America. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pdZw31C0svw>.

Scouting America. Sept 2024. Cub Scout Fishing Supplement. Retrieved from https://www.scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Cub-Scout-Fishing-Adventures_090924.pdf

Scoutmaster Outdoors. Aug. 21, 2022. Fishing Derby For Under \$100!!.. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xYOlgd68sCY&t=4s>.



Prepared. For Life.®

Bc / Scoutingf America - Outdoor Ethics - All Rights Reserved

Images

Gibson, Marge (2022). Eagle ensnared in fishing line in tree [photograph]. Raptor Education Group Inc, Slide 17

Gibson, Marge (2022). Loon with lead sinker [photograph]. Raptor Education Group Inc, Slide 21

itoldya420 (2016). Beach CampFire Trash.. CC0 1.0 Universal Public Domain
<https://itoldya420.getarchive.net/amp/media/campfire-garbage-deleted-0b91b8> Slide 20

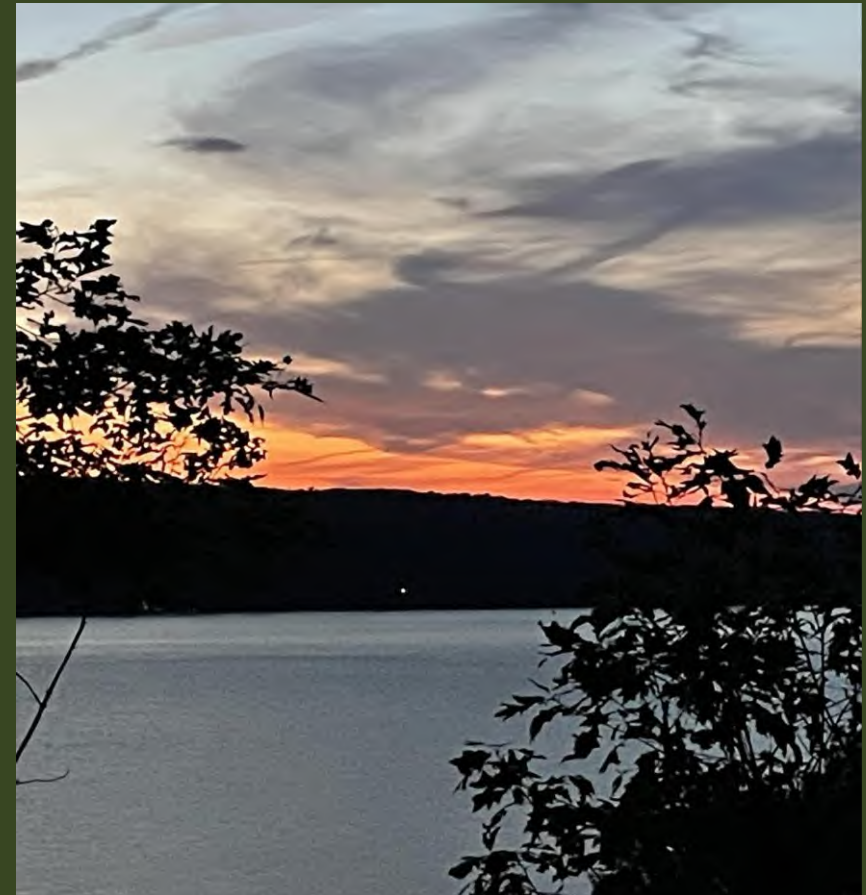
U.S. Geological Survey. (n.d.) Invasive Northern Snakehead Fish. Free Domain. Retrieved from <https://www.usgs.gov/media/images/invasive-northern-snakehead-fish>

Vastateparksstaff. (2015). Fishing line caught in tree [photograph]. Wikimedia Commons.
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fishing_line_stuck_on_tree_douthat_state_park_va_\(18767114509\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fishing_line_stuck_on_tree_douthat_state_park_va_(18767114509).jpg), Slide 17





Announcements



Suse Bell, Northern New Jersey Council



NATIONAL OUTDOOR ETHICS & CONSERVATION CONFERENCE — 2027 —

**CHART THE COURSE,
RESPECT THE SOURCE:
OUTDOOR ETHICS
FROM RIDGE TO REEF**

FEBRUARY 15-21, 2027

**SEA BASE,
ISLAMORADA KEY, FLORIDA**



LEARN MORE & REGISTER

Scan the QR code
or visit:
[https://www.scouting.org/
outdoor-programs/oec-conference/](https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/oec-conference/)



FULL CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE

\$375 PER PERSON

Feb 15 (Mon AM) - Feb 21 (Sun AM)

- Main conference and pre-conference courses
- Field experiences and excursions

MAIN CONFERENCE ONLY

\$280 PER PERSON

Feb 18 (Thu PM) - Feb 21 (Sun AM)

PRE-CONFERENCE COURSES*

- Advanced Distinguished Conservation Service Award Advisor (DCSA)
- Council Outdoor Ethics Advocate (COEA)
- Leave No Trace Level II Instructor (additional fee)
- Florida Keys Ecology (tentative)
- Ornithology (tentative)

*Courses and schedule subject to change.

MAIN CONFERENCE PROGRAM

**THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 18**
AFTERNOON & EVENING

Afternoon: Scouting for Clean Waterways field visit at a local State Park

Opening sunset cruise

Opening address and keynote address on coral reef restoration efforts by Dr. Abigail Clark, BEC STEM Program Director

**FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 19**
ALL DAY

Morning: Education sessions with subject matter experts

Afternoon: Travel to Brinton Environmental Center (BEC) for education, exhibits, and conservation discussions

Travel back to Sea Base

**SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 20**
ALL DAY

Full day of current and relevant Outdoor Ethics & Conservation education @ Sea Base (BEC evening presentations from leading subject matter experts)

**SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 21**

Morning
Interfaith Worship

Departure in the morning

WHAT'S INCLUDED

All meals

Bunkhouse lodging at Sea Base

Scouting for Clean Waterways field experience

Sunset cruise in the Florida Keys

Visit to Brinton Environmental Center (BEC)

Expert-led conservation sessions

TRAVEL OPTION

\$110 round-trip shuttle to Miami, Key West, or Fort Lauderdale airports

Or bring your own car or carpool

Lodging in bunk rooms at Sea Base or local hotels (on your own)



Lead. Learn. Conserve.
FROM RIDGE TO REEF.
BE PART OF THE MOVEMENT.



**Scouting
America**



2027 Outdoor Ethics & Conservation Conference

- Dates & Cost:
 - \$280 for the main Conference: February 18-21, 2027
 - \$375 for the Conference + Pre-Conference Workshops: February 15-21, 2027
- Location & Travel:
 - Sea Base, Islamorada, Florida
 - \$110 round-trip shuttle to Miami, Key West, or Fort Lauderdale airports
 - Lodging in bunk rooms at Sea Base or local hotels (on your own)
- Program features include:
 - Sunset cruise on February 18
 - Tour of Brinton Environmental Center and keynote address on coral reef restoration efforts
 - Optional evening field trip to Key West



Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor Courses

Dates	Council	Camp	Course Info	Field Experience
2026				
May 16-22	National Council	<u>Summit Bechtel Reserve</u>	<u>Info/Registration</u>	Non-Trek
August 9-14	National Council	<u>Northern Tier High Adventure Base</u> , Ely, MN	<u>Flyer</u> <u>Info/Registration</u> Contact: <u>Mark Hammer</u>	Canoeing
Sept 25-30	National Council	<u>Philmont Scout Ranch</u> , Cimarron, New Mexico	<u>Information/Registration</u>	Backpacking
Oct 18-23	National Council	<u>Summit Bechtel Reserve</u>	<u>Info/Registration</u>	Non-Trek

<https://scouting-oec.org/training/Level2Courses.php>



SCHOLARSHIPS Available



Partial course scholarships are available for scouters needing financial assistance in order to attend a Scouting America Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor Course. Please see our [Dan Howells Scholarship](#) webpage for more information.

The Dan Howells Memorial Fund was established to honor the memory of this passionate leader and his lifelong commitment to Leave No Trace and Scouting.

Thanks to the Howells family and Leave No Trace for creating this wonderful way for us to honor Dan's legacy.

AARON ON SCOUTING

The Official Site of Scouting Magazine



For All Families and Scouting America Volunteers



HOME

CUB SCOUTING

SCOUTS BSA

VENTURING

SEA SCOUTING

FUN

CONTACT US

DONATE TODAY

LATEST POSTS > Scouts can learn STEM and experience hot rod racing at the same time

SEARCH ...

Scouting prepares for Season 2 of Clean Waterways! Here's how you can participate.

By Darrin Scheid March 27, 2026 2 Comments Service



AARON ON SCOUTING NEWSLETTER

Join 10,586 people who get Aaron on Scouting in their inbox. We'll send an email every time we post a new story, and you can unsubscribe any time.

Email Address:

Your email address

First Name:

Your first name

Last Name:

Your last name

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2026/03/27/scouting-prepares-for-season-2-of-clean-waterways-heres-how-you-can-participate/>

LATEST STORIES



Scouts can learn STEM and experience hot rod racing at the



Please send in your photos
of Outdoor Ethics
education, Conservation
projects, or great nature
photos you've taken!

roundtable@scouting-oec.org



Paul Schimke, National Capitol Area Council



Your feedback is a gift!
Was this roundtable helpful?
What would you like to see
covered in future roundtables?

roundtable@scouting-oec.org

Feedback !?



Recordings of Outdoor Ethics & Conservation roundtables are posted at <https://scouting-oec.org/roundtable>



Desert

By Josephine Miles

When with the skin you do acknowledge drought,
The dry in the voice, the lightness of feet, the fine
Flake of the heat at every level line;

When with the hand you learn to touch without
Surprise the spine for the leaf, the prickled petal,
The stone scorched in the shine, and the wood
brittle;

Then where the pipe drips and the fronds sprout
And the foot-square forest of clover blooms in
sand,
You will lean and watch, but never touch with
your hand.

September 1934



Desert Blooms,
April 2026,
Phoenix, AZ



**Thank you for attending.
See you in August!**



Scouting.org