



Royal Rangers

Merit Requirements: [Blue-Bordered Merit](#)

FISHING

1. Write a 100-word essay on the subject of fishing. Write at least one sentence each about any five of the following: hand fishing, spear or harpoon fishing, ice fishing, night fishing, a hand line, using a cane or willow pole, bait casting, spin casting, fly-fishing, saltwater fishing, bank fishing, trolling, casting net.
2. Identify and name at least ten species of fish in your area that may be legally kept or are species that are catch-release only.
3. Learn what your state conservation department is doing to improve fishing in your area. Write a fifty-word essay on your findings or obtain a brochure or article describing their efforts.
4. Learn how to bait a hook and attach at least two kinds of live bait (minnows, worms, crayfish, grasshoppers, crickets, clams, frogs, etc.).
5. List at least three varieties of artificial bait (lures) and attach at least two kinds (plugs, jigs, spoons, flies).
6. Demonstrate how to tie at least two knots, one designed to join two lines and one designed to attach a hook or lure to a line. The recommended knots for joining two lines are the tucked sheet bend or the blood (barrel) knot; for securing a line to a hook, the bait hook knot or clincher knot.
7. Define at least ten of the following terms used by fishermen: gorge, swivel, harpoon, barb, treble hook, bobber (float), sinker, leader, landing net, jugging, trotline, stringer, tackle, angling, catch-release.
8. Learn the feeding habits and locations of at least two species of fish in your area. Learn how weather affects their feeding habits. Write a twenty-five word essay on your findings for each fish or obtain a brochure or article that satisfies these requirements.
9. List at least three things that can be done to a fish after it has been caught.
10. List at least two safety rules that are always practiced while fishing. Explain how the Golden Rule should be practiced during a fishing outing.
11. Choose and name at least five parts of the equipment for cane or spin cast. Provide a drawing or picture of your work.
12. In a closely mowed, grassy area, unobstructed for a diameter of eighty feet, practice casting the bait with the equipment chosen, (cane pole or spin casting rod and reel). Use a hookless bait and a target of a hula hoop, wading pool, rope in a circle, etc. Learn to cast consistently into the target, varying from fifteen to forty feet.
13. Catch at least two fish of different species, identify them, demonstrate how to prepare one for cooking and how to release one unharmed.