



# Royal Rangers

Merit Requirements: Silver-Bordered Merit

## FLY FISHING MERIT

1. Write a one-hundred-word essay about the history of fly-fishing in the United States. Include a segment on Native Americans.
2. Explain at least three ways that fly-fishing is different from any other fishing method:
3. Explain the differences between the wet fly presentation and the dry fly presentation.
4. Name five living things dry flies are designed to imitate and five living things wet flies are designed to imitate.
5. Assemble the following gear (purchase or borrow) and explain its purpose:
  - a. Wading gear
  - b. Wide-brim hat
  - c. Protective tinted eyewear
  - d. Fly-line reel
  - e. Fly line
  - f. Wet flies
  - g. Dry flies
  - h. Bait container
  - i. Fly rod
  - j. Creel
6. Learn to tie three of the following useful knots and explain how a fly fisherman would use them.
  - a. Tube knot: [ital] Used to attach the leader to the line
  - b. Surgeon's knot: [ital] Used to tie string together; a good binding knot for synthetic rope or string
  - c. Clincher knot: [ital] Used to tie the leader to the hook
  - d. Blood knot: [ital] The best way to tie string, especially small string, together; more difficult to make but more secure than a surgeon's knot
  - e. Bait hook knot: [ital] Used to tie the leader to the hook
  - f. Tucked sheet knot: [ital] Used to join two lines together
7. Write the definition of each of these items in the fly fisherman's vocabulary.
  - a. Dead drift
  - b. Upstream
  - c. Downstream
  - d. Twitch
  - e. Tip action
  - f. Short strip
  - g. Long strip
  - h. Split shot
  - i. Riffles
  - j. Strike indicator
  - k. Strike
  - l. Pool
  - m. Hackle
  - n. Tippet
  - o. Leader
  - p. Catch and release



# Royal Rangers

## Merit Requirements: Silver-Bordered Merit

8. List the creel limits, likely species of fish to be taken, and license requirements for your state.
9. Select a mentor (approved by your commander) who has some skill and experience in fly-fishing. With the mentor's assistance and approval, complete the following:
  - a. Demonstrate three or more basic knots from Requirement 6.
  - b. Review the vocabulary terms from Requirement 7.
  - c. Practice casting in a closely mowed grassy area that is free of any obstruction for an area at least eighty feet in diameter. Use a wad of colorful yarn (no hooks) as the bait and a paper plate as a target and learn to cast consistently twenty-five to forty feet and hit or come near the target.
  - d. Move to a body of quiet water (pond or lake) and practice with a dry or wet fly, following your mentor's recommendation when your mentor believes that your skill level would allow some success. Comply with your state's license requirements as needed.
  - e. Move to an area where it is likely that fish may be taken following your mentor's recommendation. Observe all creel limits and license requirements for your state.
  - f. Go on two or more fly-fishing outings and record the following information for each outing:
    1. Species of fish caught
    2. Length of each fish
    3. Weight of each fish
    4. Bait used
    5. Date taken
  - g. Give your mentor's report to your commander.