



Fish Camp

Leaders' Guide - Blue Ridge Scout Reservation



Come Fish With Us

Fish Camp is an outpost camp, based at Camp Powhatan on the Blue Ridge Scout Reservation. While at Fish Camp, participants have the opportunity to fish some great trout and small-mouth bass waters close to the Reservation. Scouts not only fish, they learn to fly cast, tie flies, and study the habitat and ecosystems of the fish they attempt to outwit.

Learning more about the sport of fishing is also afforded if Scouts choose to earn the Fishing or Fly Fishing Merit Badge. A full week of fishing and learning in beautiful Southwestern Virginia is what Fish Camp is all about.

Last Updated: January 12, 2019

Before Camp

- Complete the BSA National Medical Form (Parts A, B, and C).
- Remember to bring proof of Accident and Sickness Insurance (for out-of-council units).
- Print and bring two copies of your completed Fish Camp Roster (page 3).
- A Virginia 5-day fishing license is required for Virginia Residents 16 and older and for Non-Residents 12 and older (see below).
- Consult the **Reservation Guide** for other administrative details, forms, and duties.

Who can attend Fish Camp?	Any registered Scout who is at least 13 years old by camp. Also, those who attend must be able to pass the BSA Swimmer's Test.
Can leaders attend?	Absolutely! Fish Camp provides the primary leadership, but other adult leaders are encouraged to attend along with their Scouts.
Where do we stay?	Though Fish Camp participants will often eat in the dining hall and shower at Camp Powhatan base camp, they sleep in an outpost site designated for the program.
How do we travel?	Fish Camp has its own 15 passenger van. For float trips, we might ask an adult leader to volunteer a "shuttle vehicle."
What kind of gear do I need?	Most anglers are comfortable with their own gear, and we encourage you to bring your own equipment, though Fish Camp does have several rods and reels especially for Scouts to use. We provide major gear, such as fly-tying equipment and canoes. Other items to bring: sunscreen, "creek shoes," water bottle, bathing suit, flashlight, rain gear, dry bag or water-proof container.
How do I get a Fishing License?	Please go to the VDGF website (www.dgif.virginia.gov/licenses) and purchase a 5-day freshwater fishing license with a national forest stamp. Bring the license with you to camp. Virginia residents under 16 years of age do not need a permit, but non-residents 12 years old and older must have a permit.



All camps and programs offered at the Blue Ridge Scout Reservation have been nationally accredited through the Boy Scouts of America's National Camp Accreditation Program.

Arrival on Sunday

- Participants arriving with their unit need to go through the registration and check-in procedures along with their unit. This should be done at the unit's base camp; either Ottari or Powhatan. At this time, they need to complete the BSA Swimmer's Test (leaders must pass the test as well).
- Those arriving at Camp Ottari may catch the shuttle. See the **Administration Guide** for more information. Please bring buddy tag and medical form.
- Those arriving at Camp Powhatan report to Fish Camp after completing the swim check, medical check and check-in process. All participants should have their "Class A" uniform accessible for dinner that evening.

During the Week

- Wading the wide stretches of the New River in search of smallmouth bass.
- Stream fishing in Jefferson National Forest.
- Using a seine for aquatic invertebrates.
- Tying "Clouser" minnows, "Near Enuff Crayfish," and Woolly Bugger flies.
- Hiking three miles along a Native Trout stream to a 65-foot waterfall.
- Canoeing a slow-moving section of the New River while float-fishing (Some Class I/II rapids may be encountered).
- Fishing a trophy trout stream in Southwestern Virginia.
- Enjoying meals of fresh fish.
- Motorboating on Claytor Lake.
- Friday night campfire and OA ceremony.

Advanced Opportunities

- Fishing Merit Badge.
- Fly Fishing Merit Badge.
- Cooking Merit Badge (some requirements are covered while cooking in camp).

Saturday Morning

Unit leaders in base camp will need to tell the Fish Camp Director of their exit plans for Saturday morning. If a unit needs to depart early on Saturday and there is available space at the unit's campsite, the Fish Camp participant may stay with their unit. The majority of Fish Camp participants will be taken to their respective base camps on Saturday morning on the 8:00 a.m. shuttle

Fish Camp Roster

Dates attending camp: _____ Unit Type: _____ Unit Number: _____

	Name of Participant	Date of Birth	Address	Phone Number
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