

FACILITATING *Fishing*



2-3 **ACTIVITY OPENING, HELLO CAMPERS!**

min

- Every activity begins with an enthusiastic **HELLO & Welcome to Fishing!** **NOW** introduce yourselves as their **Fishing Activity Counselors!** *Remember 1st is Last & Fast! Campers will love fishing, as much as you do! Have so much fun!*
- **NOW** it's time to share names, by leading a **NAME WHIP!** This builds **community & connection!** Get creative & circle up! *Ex. Ask them to share their name & their underwater superpower*

3-5 **FISHING WITH INTENTION - EVERY OPENING NEEDS A 3 KEYS AND OUTCOMES DISCUSSION!**

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Refer to 'Fishing with Intention' Info graphic to guide you in having a 3 keys & 4 outcomes conversation with campers at the start of each activity period.

- Please address all 3 keys **AND** talk about what we hope they experience/gain from their time at fishing!

5-10 **SHOW THEM HOW**

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Some campers will come to fishing with lots of experience, some with very little. It's important to **ALWAYS** demonstrate for safety & skill building!

- This includes how to cast, release, and wait! What happens when you catch a fish? You release it! Encourage and talk campers through both baiting a hook and unhooking a fish. -- We love for them to try!

(Note: Please do NOT use towels when unhooking a fish! Towels damage fish scales!)

40 **DROP THOSE LINES!**

min

Campers are welcome to spread out around the pond, find their ideal spot!

Watch out for reeds, turtles & the waters' edge! What happens next?

- Snap a pic & give your caught fish a kiss (challenge by choice)
- Teach a fish riddles, play games or tell stories.
- Good conversation and an exercise in patience pair well with a day at fishing!
- Give out gummy worms (yummy people food)
- Have an "All-Camp competition" - Which cabins can catch the most! Make a chart or graph to put in the dining hall

3-5 **SAY GOODBYE TO WALTER**

min

Thank them for participating! - Be specific, what were some great qualities you saw in campers? Tell them! Encourage them to do the same!

Closings are a perfect time for reflection! ex. Name + if you could take a pic of anything that happened at fishing, what pic would you have taken and why.

Everybody clean up!

Fishing With Intention

COUNSELORS ARE ASKED TO HELP CAMPERS GROW IN CAMP'S FOUR OUTCOMES. DURING YOUR ACTIVITY OPENING TELL THEM A LITTLE ABOUT WHAT WE HOPE THEY GAIN FROM THEIR EXPERIENCE AT FISHING:

SOCIAL COMPETENCIES

- Share equipment
- Practice patience
- Celebrate successes
- Manage disappointment

POSITIVE SELF-IDENTITY

- Participation
- Patience
- Perseverance
- Help others
- Face fears

INDEPENDENCE & SELF RELIANCE

- Bait hook themselves
- Learn the rod
- Release and reel
- Decide where to fish

SENSE OF SUPPORT

- Encouragement
- Participation
- Helpfulness
- Engagement



3 Keys to Success

Physical Safety

Watch your hooks! They're no joke!

There is NO casting on dock!

YOU MUST look behind & around you before casting!

If there's someone close, do not cast!

Careful around the water's edge!
Stay out of the water!

Emotional Safety

It important to create a supportive environment at Camp! Let's all remember to be encouraging, kind & helpful!

It's not called catching! We can't guarantee everyone will catch a fish! (For some campers, this can be really disappointing). It's okay to be disappointed if you don't, but we're here to help you try!

Respect Camp Facilities & Equipment

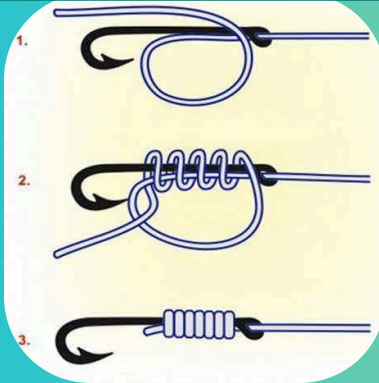
Have fun, but remember the equipment not only needs to last all summer long, but for years to come.

Leave the equipment and the fishing area how you found it!

If your line tangles, turn it in to a counselor to fix it!

Fishing: 'Hard Skills'

How to Tie a Hook:



Weights & Bobbers:



Tie the bobber about two feet from the hook. Put the split shot (weight) halfway between the hook and bobber. You'll need to use a crimping tool from the fishing shed.

Bait & Rods...you've got a couple of options:



Red earthworms-- **MUST** be kept refrigerated during non-activity period times. The trick here is to cut the worm into a 1-inch piece and slide it onto the hook lengthwise.



Guppies— Turns out, big fish eat little fish! Circle of life, yo! Use the large buckets, with shallow water, to store live guppies - if you're comfortable!

Sometimes kids don't want to do fishing in the traditional sense; oftentimes they are perfectly content and enthralled by the idea of catching guppies. Use the large buckets in the shed and the nets to catch these mini fishes in the sunny, shallow areas around the pond.



Bamboo, drop line! Less fuss, more effective? These very simple design rods made the task simple, drop a line & wait. No casting with a drop line!



Rod & Reel! Wanna try casting? This is your rod! Press fishing line release mechanism on reel, cast & wait! No casting on the dock. Very important - All casting is initiated from the side of campers body, not from overhead

You will need on hand up to 10-12 working rods for any given activity period. If you're struggling to keep working poles in use, talk to your Support Director. They can allot time for you to fix them during Helping Hands and/or have your support director help fix them with you!

OUTSMARTING WALTER 101

BLUE GILL, BASS, & CATFISH OH MY!

- The biggest fish are the ones who always seem to get away
- Sitting quietly & watching dragonflies is an activity
- Fishing creates a good opportunity to explain luck. We don't know how to explain luck, so good luck with that.
- The fish who are in the middle of the pond may be harder to catch. The fish hiding in the shadow of the dock are easier to catch.
- If the fish falls on the ground/dock, pick it up & gently help them back to the water
- Blue gill fish are spiky! Smooth down their dorsal fin before trying to hold it.
- Worms do not have teeth!
- Empty Styrofoam worm cups and water cups can blow off the deck and into the pond. Don't litter!



Facilitation: Things to Consider

The activity experience will vary greatly depending cabin to cabin. Some general tips for successfully working with groups include:

- Think about group comfort
- Think about group size - do you have enough rods, worms, etc.
- Make sure you have their attention & then deliver
- Be clear & concise in your words
- Make instructions easily digestible & age appropriate
- Sequencing - timing when its best to present what information for superb camper engagement
- Front Loading - what information is necessary & helpful to present early or during transitions
- How will you & your Co's share facilitation, who will say what and when and how?!

Prepping for Your Activity

- USE YOUR RESOURCES! Your support directors are human resources, don't forget about them!
- Be prepared for each cabin group, HAVE A PLAN!
- Think about your timing...work backwards! How long for your closing? How long will it take to execute this activity? Opening?
- Consider connecting with cabin counselors, how's the cabin feel about coming to fishing?!
- Anything you should know, that you don't already about campers needs, or group dynamics?
- Remember to grab the worms! Worms are kept in the refrigerator under the bread bar in the Dining Hall.
- Rods can be hung on the hooks on the pond dock or stored in the fishing shed. Ensure you have enough working rods before each activity for every camper!
- It's helpful to have extra hooks, bobbers and weights with you at the dock, so that you don't have to run to the shed during your activity.

What is the role of the Cabin Counselor at Fishing?

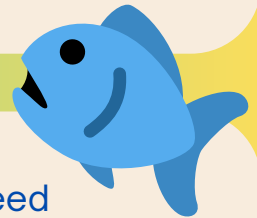
During Fishing, just like all activities, Cabin Counselors are expected to help keep their campers engaged, respectful, and safe.

At fishing, ask cabin counselors to help you:

- Supervise any campers, especially if they're struggling to engage.
- Assist campers with baiting their hooks, and releasing caught fish, if needed.
- Be on the lookout for dangerous behavior, intentional or not.
- Look for opportunities to connect with their campers.
- Ensure their health & safety - water & sunscreen too!

We ask that Counselors engage and help out with their campers as they fish, but not fish themselves. Fishing often requires many helping hands!

Equipment & Storage



Everything you need & more for fishing is kept in the fishing shed. If you need something that is not there...ask! There are 15-20 Rods, 10-15 Bamboo drop lines, hooks, fishing line, weights and bobbers. Don't forget your bait!

All fishing equipment should be kept in the fishing shed overnight.

There are hooks for hanging rods in the shed & on the dock for easy access during an activity.

Please leave the Fishing shed as clean or cleaner than you found it!

Health & Safety

- All Participants should use hand sanitizer after handling worms or fish and be instructed to wash hands with soap and water at the end of the activity.
- Hook caused or other injuries (fingers, skin, etc.)
 - Calm the individual
 - Send an adult to Med Shed for IMMEDIATE assistance, if applicable.
 - If safe, participant should be taken directly to the Med Shed for attention.
 - Have an adult supervise the remaining campers
 - Pack and isolate the injured area using activity first aid kit supplies
 - Never attempt to remove a hook from your skin.
- In case of thunder and lightning, fishing will be halted. All campers will return to their cabin or alternative program location. (see Lightning procedure)
- First Aid and Universal Precaution kits are maintained at this activity.