



WHERE TO FIND FISH IN A LAKE

- Plan the special activities. See the ideas on these pages. If gear or tools will be needed, assign someone to obtain them; seek help from the troop committee, if necessary.
- Inventory the troop's camping equipment, if not done recently.
- Plan details of troop meetings for the month. Assign patrol demonstrations, covering skills that will be needed for the Fishing Frolic. For example, assignments might be:
 - Patrol A—Fly fishing
 - Patrol B—Casting
 - Patrol C—Lures
 - Patrol D—Cleaning your fish
- Hold a junior leader training session on understanding the needs of the group.

FEATURE EVENT

Fishing Frolic

The first thing to remember in planning the highlight event is that the fun of fishing is a relative thing. For the 11-year-old who has never caught a fish, a 5-inch sunny, a perch, or even a small flounder or snapper can be a thrill. For the old-timer, a veteran of battles with 3-pound trout, 5-pound smallmouths, and 6-pound blues or stripers, a 7-inch bluegill can still be fun on a light fly rod with a hair-fine leader and mosquito-sized dry fly. The thrill will be even greater if he is with his parent.

Planning Fishing Activities

You don't have to catch big fish to have fun fishing. You don't even have to catch fish at all to work up a good month's program. In fact, you don't have to get out of the school gym or church basement to teach boys some of the elements of how to catch fish. But, naturally, you will want to go outside if it is at all possible to do so.

The purpose of this program feature is threefold. First, the purpose is to introduce fishing to the Scout so they will learn enough fundamentals to have fun and perhaps develop a hobby that can last the rest of their lives. Fishing is one of the most relaxing sports there is, and in this day of high-pressure living, when we run to catch an elevator even though another will be going up in 1 minute, more fishermen would probably mean fewer ulcers and coronaries.

Another purpose is to emphasize the idea that fishing is a sport and not necessarily a source of meat in the pot. The fisherman who goes out to catch the limit or stock his freezer rarely has fun. But, if his objective is to have fun in the outdoors on stream, lake, or bay, enjoying the world of nature to the fullest, catching fish is an extra dividend to a healthful day.

The third purpose is to teach good sportsmanship and outdoor manners. The use of the American outdoors is increasing at a tremendous rate. Millions upon millions flock each year to America's waterways to fish, swim, water ski, or go boating. Good sportsmanship and outdoor manners are essential if all of these waterways are to remain open for public use and support such a variety of recreation.

Projects for Patrols

The following projects are designed to be used at patrol meetings and for demonstration by patrols at troop meetings.

FISH IDENTIFICATION. The best way to learn to tell one fish from another is to use some real, honest-to-goodness, recently caught fish. The second best way is to use good color pictures such as those found in fishing tackle catalogues and in state conservation department pamphlets. Catalogues may be obtained at fishing tackle shops or by writing to manufacturers. You may find help from your local conservation agent or game protector, or by writing to your state conservation department.