



## Planning the fishing trip

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Once participants have developed good casting skills, it is time for the real thing. Depending on the age level, the leaders may want to plan the first trip. However, it is important, that participants learn how to plan the trip on their own. So after, the first trip, turn the planning over to them.

### Angling Skills Objectives

Participating young people and adults will:

1. Gather research and information.
2. Determine what options they have for places to fish
3. Determine where the fish are biting the best?
4. Determine which would be the best baits to use.
5. Determine which equipment they will need to take.
6. Determine how they are going to get there.
7. Determine what safety and food considerations need to be considered.
8. Have fun fishing.

### Youth Development Objectives:

Participating young people will:

1. Enhance decision making and critical thinking skills
2. Enhance communications skills
3. Enhance relationships with adults and other youth
4. Enhance science and technology awareness
5. Enhance self concept
6. Gain self-confidence
7. Enhance teamwork.

### Roles for Teen and Junior Leaders:

1. Assist with Internet searches.
2. Assist with mapping exploration

### Potential Parental Involvement

1. Bring maps, magazines and newspapers
2. Bring cell phones
3. Arrange for or provide refreshments at the meeting.
4. Provide transportation.

### Evaluate Activities/Suggestions

1. Evaluate the meeting itself, and the communication skills used.
2. Evaluation of the fishing activity will be somewhat self-evident. Did youth catch fish? Did they bring the right equipment? Did they get hungry? Did they have a good time?
3. When they return, have participants evaluate what they will do different next time.

**Best Time:** Anytime the fishing season is open.

**Best Location:** Indoors where you have access to a telephone, the newspaper, magazines, maps and possibly the Internet. As part of the exercise, participants will decide the best place to go for the fishing experience itself.

**Time Required:** One meeting - 30 minutes.  
Second meeting (actual planning meeting) —60 to 90 minutes. Fishing trip can be variable from a few hours to a day. Follow-up meeting – 30 minutes.

#### **Equipment Materials**

Telephones /Telephone book  
Computer connected to Internet (optional)  
Maps of the area that show fishing locations  
Newspaper articles on fishing conditions  
Magazine articles discussing type of fishing condition for time of year.  
Fishing rods and reels, line, hooks, bait, lures  
Ice and Ice Chest  
Food and Drink

#### **Safety Considerations**

There should be little safety concerns at the planning meeting itself. However, there are many safety considerations that need to be considered in the fishing trip itself. If there is deep or fast moving water, participants may need personal floatation devices. Water needs to be available to prevent dehydration. All participants should be required to wear glasses and a hat with a bill worn over their eyes. Anglers should be reminded to always be aware of where their line and hook can potentially go when casting. A first aid kit should be available.

## Lesson Narrative

**As an ongoing project**, have 4-H members collect magazine articles that would relate to fishing areas near where they live.

**First Meeting:** At a meeting at least a month in advance of the “Planning the Fishing Trip” meeting, have members:

- Call or write to the state fish and wildlife agency to send fishing regulations and any information or maps the agency has on fish or fishing in your section of the state.
- Visit tackle stores and ask about places to go. If they have topographical maps or fishing maps available, purchase a copy if your club can afford it.
- Discuss and research who the anglers are in your area that fish a lot and get their phone numbers.
- Check what license requirements are and make sure anyone who is required to have a license, purchases one and has it on his/her possession while fishing.

**Second Meeting:** Have participants bring all available information they have located. This meeting should be facilitated by the leader, but not lead by the adult leader. The actions below are for the participants to do. Allow participants to discuss and to make the decisions. For the following to be effective, the actual fishing trip should follow the planning meeting within a few days. Therefore, if your meeting is on a Tuesday, plan the fishing trip for a day after school later that week or on the upcoming weekend.

- Assign tasks to group members and have them report back to group.
- Review the material and maps and list the fishing options available.
- List the kinds of fish found in the waters selected.
- Call tackle stores in the area to find out where the best fishing is currently and find out what types of bait the fish are hitting.
- Call anglers and possibly the conservation officer in the area to see where they are having success. Ask about where they are finding fish in the specific water (i.e. points, shallow coves, drop offs, around cover, etc). Ask what types of baits have been most effective.
- Check sites on the Internet to find local information and general fish behavior information.
- Be sure to involve the whole group in discussions and decisions. Make a decision on where to go and what fish you plan to fish for.
- Check the weather forecast. If there is a cold front or storm coming through, it will change the behavior of the fish from what they have learned from the anglers and tackle stores. However, by referring to magazines, books, information on the internet, have participants be prepared by having options of baits and a knowledge of where fish may move.
- Utilizing all the information gathered, make a list of the equipment that will be needed for the trip. Consider rod and reel types, size of fishing line, and types of baits to bring. Participants can change their line if need be at the meeting or when they get home. They need to be prepared for the fishing trip.
- When fish are caught, decide whether some will be kept for cooking or whether all fish will be released. If some fish will be taken home, decide who will bring a cooler with ice.
- Discuss safety considerations. Will personal floatation devices be needed? Who will bring the first aid kit? Will sun tan lotion be needed? Have everyone make a checklist to bring and wear glasses and a hat with a brim that can be worn over the eyes. Review casting safety. Review potential hazardous situations at the site you plan to go to and how to do deal with them in a responsible manner.
- Will everyone be responsible for his or her own food or will a group be in charge of it? Make sure there is enough water to prevent dehydration. If a group is put in charge of food, decide what kind and how much.
- How is everyone going to get to the fishing site? Can you walk or ride bikes? If not, have participants make calls to parents that evening to line up transportation.
- Set a time and place for everyone to meet.

**Fishing Day:** Participants apply what they have learned. Review safety and hazardous things to be aware of again before participants disperse. They are encouraged to use decision-making skills, and adjust to changing situations. The most important thing is that everyone has a good time.

**Meeting following the fishing day.** Review what participants learned. Were the fish in the areas where they had planned? If not, were they able to locate them? Did it follow the patterns learned from information they had researched? What did they learn about different baits used? What would they do different next time?

**Extensions:** This is a format that can be used over and over. Fish change behavior as weather and seasons change. The more opportunities the participants have to fish in varying conditions, the more they will learn and the better anglers they will become. Explore fishing for different types of fish. Fish lakes, ponds, rivers... all offer different learning experiences. Fish out of canoes. Fish with adult anglers (maybe with tournament anglers with boats). Invite friends of 4-H members to go on a trip and encourage them to join the club after they find out how much fun they can have.

- Family Fishing Day — families go together. 4-H'ers help those learn who have not been before.
- Take A Friend Fishing Day
- Consider building a group ethical code of fishing prior to the fishing trip.