

**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>**Thank you for volunteering for this beginner level fishing clinic**

This is designed to be a fun family event that is free for the public. Fishing licenses are required for all anglers 16 years and older. All other fishing regulations apply.

Today we will be teaching the following skills:

1. Knot tying (an improved cinch knot)
2. Safety and ethics of fishing
3. How we affect the quality of water (urban runoff)
4. Casting
5. Rigging

In addition, participants can borrow poles; will be given a full tackle box, book of fishing, and free bait.

Only participants who complete the clinic) will receive tackle and bait and be allowed to fish in the specially marked area.

Hints

For most people using our equipment, this will be either a first time or first time in a long time experience. They may not even know the basics about fishing. They may be embarrassed or intimidated about asking questions or admitting what they don't know.

- Help participants learn skills, but don't do it for them
- Explain technical terms and jargon
- Empathize
- If they are having trouble, explain it to them, show them how to do it, let them do it
- Encourage them, give positive feed back for their accomplishments
- Make a big deal out of people's first catch. It is a memorable event for them.
- Have fun
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If there is a problem with a rod, bring it back to the check out table and give the person a new one (Please remove the reel from the rod so it is not re-issued).

It is important that each person learn the same skills as everyone else on the lake. This will allow them to help each other with problems. Please do not teach skills other than what is mentioned and please do not deviate from the systems we ask you to follow. If you have questions, please ask.

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Group leaders

The purpose of this event is to help people learn basic fishing skills and to allow them to practice their new skills at the lake. Your role is to guide your group through the clinic stations.

The stations are:

- Knot tying
- Safety and ethics
- Urban runoff (How to keep the water clean for fish)
- Casting
- Rigging (includes baiting)
- Tackle Box Assembly (at some events)

The registration table will give you a group of 10-12 kids and their parents.

- Welcome them and tell them your name
- Ask how many have fished before (this gives you an indication of their skill level and will help you build a relationship with your group.)
- Give them an overview of what they can expect in the next 40 minutes.
- Remind the group that it is the kid's job to fish and the adult's job to help the children. Adults need to stay with their children throughout the clinic and remain with them while they are fishing.
- Children must remain with their rods the entire time. If they need to leave the lake for any reason, they should reel in their lines.
- Ask for questions.

Points to remember:

- Keep the group together
- Assist station leaders, you are the second pair of hands to help participants learn
- Provide consistency between the stations.
- You are to help participants, not do it for them. Insist that they learn the necessary skills and practice them.

When you have completed the last station and have sent your group off to the lake to fish, please return to the beginning to get another group. Depending on the number of people attending, you may have the opportunity to do this many times this morning.

If you need a break, please check with the event organizers before you wander off.

In general:

You will spend about 5 to 10 minutes at each station. Remember to have fun.



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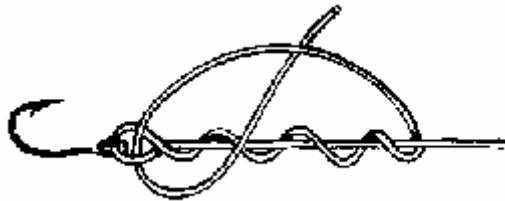
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Knot Tying

1. Demonstrate the improved clinch knot for the group.
2. Distribute a short piece of rope to each pair of people.
3. Put them in pairs and have each person practice the knot twice.
4. Demonstrate how to release the line from the reel (press and release the button)
5. Have them remove the washer from the line and run the line up through the guides.
6. Give each person a casting plug (small section of hose) and have them tie this on using the knot.
7. When they are through, give them a knot card and collect the ropes.

Improved Clinch Knot



Pass line through eye of hook, swivel or lure. Double back and make 5 turns around the standing line. Thread line though first loop above eye, then though big loop as shown. Cut off excess line.

It is important that everyone learn, use and practice the same knot. Please only teach the Improved Clinch Knot today.

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Safety and Ethics

This is perhaps the most important station at a clinic for your success here will determine the type of **behavior** and **attitudes** these new anglers will have when they go to fish on their own. Your success here will have an impact on their own personal safety, the safety of those around them and how others perceive anglers in general.

Treat this station very seriously, yet don't get too heavy with it. Have fun and do a good job. There is a poster that you will have use of to assist you.

Background

Fishing is fun. Nevertheless, each angler has a responsibility to protect and maintain the resource and to be safe and courteous around other anglers. Ask the group to identify what they can do to be respectful to other anglers and the resource. What do they need to consider being safe while fishing? (Review the attached information). Be dramatic to emphasize safe use of a pole.

Remind them that part of fishing is being courteous and respectful to other people, the resource. Review the ethics card with them (the flip side of the knot card).

Safety

Although fishing is not necessarily a dangerous sport, there are hazards. You are responsible for insuring not only your own safety, but also the safety of those around you.

- Be careful with hooks and watch your rod tips.
- Always look behind you when casting.
- When walking with a rod, keep the rod upright and secure the hook to a guide.
- When handling fish, watch for spines.
- Wear a life jacket when near deep or fast water.
- Tell someone where you are going and when you will be back.
- Protect yourself from the sun.
- Be prepared for cold or wet weather.

Fishing Ethics

Ethical fishing is not only about doing what is legal, ethical fishing is about doing what is right. It is about showing respect for other people, the land and the fish. It is about doing things to insure that there will always be good fishing, so that others can enjoy the area, whether or not they are fishing, and insuring that people around you have a good impression of anglers.

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1. The people around you include landowners, other anglers, and other people around you also using the area.
2. Respecting fish means not wasting fish. Eat what you take home or learn to release your catch quickly and safely if you don't want to eat it.
3. Regulations include local park regulations and California fishing regulations. Only those people displaying a fishing license have paid for the fish and habitat improvements which are making your experience possible. Fishing regulations are available wherever you buy a license and are a good thing to carry with you while fishing.
4. Respecting the environment means that you do your best to minimize your impact on the shore line and remove all litter when you leave.

Show the group the Safety and Ethics poster.

- What kinds of things do you see happening here that are wrong?
- In general, what are some code things to do when fishing to ensure you are being an ethical angler? (Fishing quietly, removing litter, keeping only legal size fish and fish you will eat, not disturbing other anglers or other people using the lake)

Pledge

Research indicates that people are more likely to follow through with changing behavior if they make a public declaration. The labels on the tackle boxes have an “angler code of ethics”. Have the group read these out loud together (or have a person read each one) and then ask them to sign the pledge (This signing serves a dual purpose of identifying their tackle box).

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Casting

This is participants' opportunity to practice the knots they just learned to tie. Give each person a casting plug and have them tie it on the end of their line. (This is best done at a table.)

Review how to operate the reel.

- Pressing the button does not release the line
- Pressing and releasing the button releases the line.

Demonstrate casting techniques.

1. Face forward with feet even and both facing forward.
2. **Always look behind you.**
3. Place the rod over shoulder
4. Press down on the button
5. Swing forward releasing the button at “one o’clock”
6. Reel in slowly until the reel clicks; this prevents the line from going out further.
7. Do it again -have them practice, practice, practice!

Take the group to clearly marked open area with all boundaries marked.

When they are ready, take them to rigging.



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Urban runoff

A diorama of the local watershed is used to demonstrate how we (as individuals) affect the quality of water in our local waterways.



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Tackle Box Assembly or distribution

At some events, participants will be asked to complete their own tackle box.

Tackle, boxes and bait are only available to those who complete the clinic. One box per participant.

The actual tackle received at each event may vary by community; however a general rule is that each person receives:

- 1 box
- 1 label
- 10 hooks
- 2 bobbers
- 10 pieces of split shot
- 2 sliding egg sinkers
- 1 knot card (This may be on the label)

Only participants completing the entire clinic receive a tackle box.

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Rigging

Ask participants to remove and return casting plugs. Trade the casting plug for a tackle box*. Do not allow them to keep the casting plugs!

Demonstrate how to rig a line. Please do not do it for them, but assist them in doing it themselves. This is a good time to review safety.

Remind them that they have already tied the knot twice, so they should know how to do it.

Explain what to do if you feel a nibble and how long to wait before checking bait.

At most events, the following rigging is used:

1. Have participants clip off the casting plug.
2. Insert the sliding sinker into the line.
3. Place a piece of split shot onto the line about 24 inches from the end. Use the pliers (not your teeth) to crimp it onto the line.
4. Have the parent (or other person) hold the hook while the child ties it onto the line.
5. Clip off any excess fishing line.
6. Place the hook onto a guide for safety.

Bait

Give them bait and demonstrate baiting a hook.

Wish them luck and remind them that there are people roaming the lake to help if they need it.

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Pole check out

Poles may only be checked out to adults.

1. Write the last name of the family on the front of an envelop.
2. We need a form of identification (drivers' license) to issue a pole. **Under no circumstances are you to give out a rod without a driver's license as security!**
3. Place the drivers' license in the envelop. Each family may borrow up to 2 rods per driver's license.
4. If you are lending out more than one pole per family, mark this number on the envelope.
5. File the envelope in the accordion file.
6. Hand them a pole.
7. Hand them a wristband, if appropriate.

Pole check in

Before accepting rods back:

Be sure the poles are free of terminal gear (hooks, bobbers and weights). The tackle is theirs to keep. Have them pull the line back out of the eyelets, tie a washer to the end and reel it all the way back to the reel. (If you don't have spare washers, paper clips will do, but you must tie something on to prevent the line from going back inside the reel.)

1. Check rods for damage and proper de-rigging.
2. Return the drivers license – Have them look at the license to insure it is the correct one.
3. Place rods in bundles of 10 and tie them together.

If an individual checks out more than one rod, all the rods must be returned at the same time.

If the rod is damaged due to their misuse or neglect, or if a rod is not returned, request a check for \$30 to cover replacement. Check should be payable to "California Wildlife Foundation"

If you have problems, contact DFG or park staff of assistance.



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Shoreline Attendants

Your role is to help people as they fish. Please keep in mind that the purpose of the day is help participants learn basic angling skills.

Please:

- Encourage them to do everything themselves.
- Reinforce the other instructors by only teaching the particular knot and method of rigging introduced during the clinic.
- Do not tie knots or rig poles for people. They need to learn to do this themselves. If a child cannot master the skill, have the parent master the skill.