This outline is a checklist of subject areas that you may want to cover in the workshop. Modify it as you wish. Suggestions can easily be incorporated into future courses.

Day 1

8:30 Registration - Video –
- Choose any of your favorite videos or one about your club or the FFF. It gets people settled.

9:00 Introduction & Welcome
- Pass out the Boy Scout Fly-Fishing Merit Badge handbooks, handouts, state fishing regulations and rope or line for knot lab, and food and beverages.
- Introduction of staff (encourage scouts to talk to the instructors on breaks, etc.)
- Be sure to point out the other resources added to the students’ packets.
- Answer questions.

9:10 "Fish We Fly Fish For" –
- Provide overview/scope/application of the fly fishing method to fish in your area.
- The Boy Scout Fly Fishing Merit Badge handbook has information on bass, panfish, trout and saltwater.
- Add other sources that will apply to the fish in your area.
- Be sure to discuss the fishing available in your area and how to fish each type of fish.

9:15 Assemble an Outfit and Talk About its Components
- Start with a description of a "complete" outfit to provide context.
- Have examples available of several "complete outfits."
- See the section on "The Basic Equipment" in the Boy Scout Fly Fishing Merit Badge handbook.
- Lines - max 10 minutes - Have examples available. See the section on Lines in the Merit Badge handbook on page 11 to 12 - construction, materials - weight - balance.
- Page 15 - care (remind about damage from insect repellent).

9:30 Rods - max 10 minutes –
- Have examples available.
- See the section on Rods in the Boy Scout Fly Fishing Merit Badge handbook on page 9 to 11. - materials - quality materials: money, lay up, engineering, etc. - balance with lines and intended fishing.
- Page 9 - action: slow, medium, fast - special purpose rods - the "all purpose rod"

9:40 Reels - max 10 minutes
- Have examples available.

9:50 Leaders & Tippits- max 10 minutes
- Have examples available.

10:00 Assembly/Disassembly of Tackle (if time permits) - max 10 min.
• See the section on The Basic Equipment in the Boy Scout Fly Fishing Merit Badge handbook on pages 9 to 24 - rod tube / sock - ferrules - guides, threading the line. - straightening line & leader. - storing the line & hook. - stuck ferrule: 2 person; 1 person. - storing the rod.

10:10 Break

10:30 Introduction to Casting - Live demonstrations are always preferable.
• See the section on Learning to Cast in the Boy Scout Fly Fishing Merit Badge handbook on page 25 to 29. - video excerpts - Lefty Kreh's "All New Fly Casting Techniques" or Mel Kreiger's "Essence of Fly Casting", or any video you may prefer. Check the FFF video loaner library on the web.
• Demonstration of overhead cast with Fly-O in the room or on the grass. Page 26 to 29. - proper grip - parts of the cast: pickup, back cast, forward cast - transferring energy: loading & unloading - loop control: timing & the clock - directing the cast: casting plane - scouts to try Fly-O or video if available.

11:15 Stewardship & Lunch - Keep the message low key but put it in front of your students. They should come to the sport with a stewardship ethic not just one of mechanics and extraction.
• Review the Boy Scout Outdoor Code and the 7 "Leave No Trace": principles on page 63 to 69 of the Boy Scout Fly Fishing Merit Badge handbook, and how they apply to fly fishing.
• Ethics and Etiquette should also be discussed in every fly fishing program. - The articles "Seven Days in June, Seven Men from Chicago" and "Thieves of a Stream" or use some article from your own area. "Three Men Three Rivers" Video available from the Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Montana State Parks and Wildlife Interpretive Assoc., PO Box 9211, Helena, MT 59604.
• Use any videos that may be available that will help emphasize personal involvement in stewardship.
• Check the FFF Video loaner library on the web or your local fly shop. - Questions and answers handled over lunch.

12:00 Gather & Split Group

12:15 Casting Group - - instructors assist in rigging outfits - demonstration/narration
• See Learn to Cast in the Boy Scout Fly Fishing Merit Badge handbook on page 25 to 29. - safety, back cast, hat & sunglasses. - starting out.
• Page 26. - stance - grip - working out the line - begin cast - tip down (emphasize) - pickup: smooth lift, energize & load the rod - backcast - energizing, stopping, smooth transition - forward cast, stopping - presentation to targets - controlling loops - wide loops - closed loops - proper loop - roll cast.
• Page 28 to 29. - clock, energize, casting plane, loop control - 1 to 1 or small group practice with students on the grass or on a pond with yarn instead of hooks.
12:15 Knot Lab Group - have a fully rigged outfit available to show where the knots will be used. The need for knots is more easily explained.

- Page 17 to 22 of the Fly Fishing Merit Badge handbook. Use the large size fly line or rope to demonstrate and for Boy Scouts to practice. Use a block of wood with a screw eye attached to represent the fly. It is easier to tie a knot with the large fly line or rope. While the knots the instructors prefer may vary from those listed below, #1 to 5 are required by the badge requirements. - knots in nylon - strength, weakness, reliability, simplicity - heat - demo to show how heat destroys nylon - wind knots - demo with wind knot - describe outfit, where knot used - set context for understanding knots.
- Knot 1 - Arbor knot - backing to rod.
- Page 20 – Knot 2 - Nail knot or Needle knot - leader/permanent butt to line
- Page 18 – Knot 3 - Perfection loop: & loop to loop connections.
- Page 21to 22 – Knot 4 - Double surgeon's knot - tippet, leader repair,
- Page 17 – Knot 5 - Improved clinch knot - attaching the fly
- Page 19 - Blood knot or Barrel knot, attach leader to tippet - Turtle knot, attach fly to leader,
- Practice each knot with larger diameter fly line or "rope" before trying to tie leader material. Include this rope as part of your handouts.

1:30 Switch Groups

3:00 Break

3:15 Tackle Talk - Shopping for Equipment –
- Provide general statements / recommendations about tackle for various fish/situations.
- Discuss fish and fishing conditions in your area.
- Discuss starter kits - have catalogs available or copy pages showing examples of low cost starter kits. Show float tubes - show examples if possible - useful gadgets- show examples

3:45 Close - questions, comments, depart by 4:00 p.m.

Day 2
9:00 Video - for anyone arriving early.
- Pick something appropriate for your area and fishing opportunities. "Anatomy of a Trout Stream" by Rick Hafele, or "Where the Trout Are" by Gary Borger. Check the FFF video loaner library on the web or your local fly shops video library.

9:30 Reconvene Class
- Offer food and drinks
- Review schedule for the day
• Answer questions.

9:40 Introduction of Flies - This section is used to discuss what type of flies are appropriate to the fishing opportunities in your area.
  • Do a slide show of your own or show the flies or photos of them - whatever best fills your needs.
  • See “All About Flies” in the Boy Scout Fly Fishing Merit Badge handbook. This section should represent the basic types of flies - dry, wet, nymphs, streamers, bass bugs and poppers, and saltwater flies used in your area.
  • Discuss how and where to fish each of them in your area, page 34 to 35 and 43 to 49. Discuss "Matching the Hatch," page 34

11:00 Break - ten minutes

  • Discuss the following for the merit badge requirements.
    o Cuts and scratches, page 57
    o Puncture wounds, page 58
    o Insect bites, page 59
    o Hypothermia, page 61
    o Dehydration, page 60
    o Hook removal, page 58 - how to do it, buried point, protruding point - barbless hooks - penetration, removal, catch & release
  • First aid kit for fly fishing should include bandages, antiseptic wipes, insect repellent, and sunscreen, and other items for your area.
  • Waders & wading. This is not a badge requirement but may be needed if fishing in a boat or from shore is not an option for Requirement #10 - taking a swim - hip boots - chest waders, importance of a wader belt - different soles/different conditions - polarized sunglasses/hat - life jackets for early spring wading & boats

11:45 Lunch/Clean Up Classroom

12:45 Gather & Split Group

1:00 2nd Casting Session

1:00 Fly Fishing Tactics
  • Where to Fish on page 31 to 49
  • Fly Selection on page 39 to 40
  • Hooking, Playing and Releasing a Fish on pages 51 to 52
  • Discuss tactics most effective in your area.
2:00 Switch Groups

2:45 Break - 15 minutes, reconvene near parking lot

3:00 Closing
- General Questions & Answers
- Scout Feedback
- Clarification
- Closing Remarks & Thanks
- Remind the scouts of the resources pages attached to the student packet. These will provide the scouts with good sources for mail order catalogues, books, videos and periodicals on fly fishing.

Day 3

8:00 Fly Tying Equipment
- Have many examples of each available and discuss uses.
- See the FFF "Introduction to Fly Tying" booklet pages 1 to 5. - vises - scissors - bobbins and bobbin threader - bodkin - hackle pliers – hair stackers – whip finishers - extra gadgets

8:30 Materials and Hooks
- See the FFF "Introduction to Fly Tying" booklet pages 5 to 8. - hooks - types, parts and sizes - thread - types and sizes - materials - fur, feathers, manmade fibers, etc.

9:00 Beginning Techniques
- See the FFF "Introduction to Fly Tying" booklet pages 8 to 13. - basic wrap - thread torque - material roll - finger-thumb tuck - dubbing - half hitch - whip finish - gaging hackle size

9:45 Break

10:00 Fly Tying Exercise
- Since the scouts need to demonstrate tying 2 flies only, pick basics that fit your fishing situations.
- The Boy Scout Fly Fishing Merit Badge handbook has the "recipe" and diagraming of a Mickey Finn. This can be adapted to fit warm, cold, and saltwater fishing and can be taught after a wooly bugger or one of its variations.
- See page 14 to 15 for the recipes and materials list.

12:00 Close or lunch and add an afternoon of tying.
Note: Fly tying has not been covered adequately in the Boy Scout Fly Fishing Merit Badge handbook. Scouts should be able to tie 2 different flies to meet the badge requirements. Only 1 fly - the Mickey Finn streamer pattern - has been included. More instruction will be needed. Use the FFF "Introduction to Fly Tying" booklet as a source. Consider scheduling another 4 to 6 hour weekend session or 2 to 3 two hour evening sessions to give the scouts some fly tying basic skills.

The FFF "Introduction to Fly Tying" booklet includes lessons on the Grey Hackle Yellow, Montana nymph, Postwing dry fly, Elkhair caddis, and Marabou streamer. Each pattern builds on the skills learned with the previous pattern. Adjust these patterns to reflect the flies used in your area. Also included in the student packet is a list of local fly shops, mail order fly fishing outlets, books, videos and periodicals that students can use to learn more about fly fishing. See the attached Minnesota Fly Fishers list. This can be adapted to your local shops and favorite books, etc.