

Golden Empire Council
SECOND ANNUAL
Complete Angler Weekend Campout



Participant and Leaders Guide

Gibson Ranch
Elverta, California

October 3-5th, 2025



Welcome to the 2nd Annual GEC Fishing Merit Badge / Complete Angler Award Weekend. Over the course of the last 3 years, fishing in the Golden Empire Council has seen a huge amount of interest from all. Last year we gave the youth in Troops, Venturing Crews and Ships the opportunity to earn all 3 of the fishing merit badges and the Complete Angler Award by offering different levels of outdoor education, camping opportunities, advancement and lots of fun. We hoped 25 youth to attend, and we had over 180 Scouts from 3 different councils join us.

All the Scouts in attendance will be working on the Fishing MB, Fly Fishing MB and the Fish and Wildlife Management MB. Once all three (3) merit badges and a small project is completed, the Scouts will also earn the Complete Angler Award Patch.

We have recruited several BSA Certified Angling Instructors, Angling Educators and BSA Merit Badge Counselors to help deliver the classroom discussions and teach hands-on skills by utilizing the Edge Methods of Scouting. This year we will also have the Northern California Fly Fishing Club in attendance to teach the Scouts fly tying and casting lessons.

This year make sure each Scouts records the size of the fish they caught. We will have awards for the 3 Biggest Fish caught. There will also be a patrol fish cooking competition and a campsite decorating contest.

We're looking forward to having you join us for the weekend. We have Scouts from Golden Empire and surrounding councils participating. If you have never been given the opportunity to learn how to fish or fly fish, we hope that you will be "Hooked On Fishing" for years to come.

See you at Gibson Ranch!

Vickie Ashworth
Golden Empire Council Fishing Chair

General Information

Who can attend:

The event is open to all Scouts BSA Troops, Venturing Crews, and Sea Scout Ships. Scouts will be broken into smaller “schools” (fish don’t have the Patrol Method) for program rotations throughout the weekend, but they will make progress towards earning the Fishing, Fly Fishing, and Fish and Wildlife Management Merit Badges.

If your unit has any Scouts who participated last year and have earned all their merit badges and the Complete Angler Award, it is highly encouraged that you bring them and sign them up as staff. Many hands make for light work, and it’s always great watching the Scouts teach each other.

Event Fees:

The event fees cover the camping fee, all program materials and equipment, t-shirt, and a patch. We understand the need for those volunteering to teach all weekend, not having time to cook for themselves so the staff fee will also cover food for the entire weekend.

The fees are:

Youth: \$80.00

Adult: \$40.00

Staff: \$20.00

Health and Safety:

All participants (youth and adult) are required to bring with them a complete BSA Health Form (parts A and B). There will be a medic onsite for the entire weekend. The medic will be stationed near the check-in and classroom area for the entirety of the event. All participants should always have a small first aid kit with them in case of need.

Site Location:

Any day is a good day to experience the Country at Gibson Ranch Regional Park. There are so many things to do at this park, and it’s a great place to hold our event! Gibson Ranch Regional Park is located at 8556 Gibson Ranch Road, Elverta, CA 95626.

Check-In:

Check-in will begin at 5pm on Friday, October 3RD. Check-in will take place at the picnic pavilion adjacent to the event area. Please look for and follow signs placed

around the park. Please park your vehicles in the permitted area. Parking permits will be issued at Check-in.

Camping:

We will be staying in a pre-assigned area of Gibson Ranch. Participants and staff are responsible for bringing their own tents and shelters. Hammock camping is not allowed. Per Scouting America policies, all adults over 18 camping overnight need to be registered with their council. I will not have time to check registrations for membership. Please remember the 1st point of the Scout Law “A Scout is Trustworthy”

Do I need a Fishing License:

The answer is yes if you are 16 years and over. Gibson Lake is still controlled by the State of California Fish and Game. A fishing license can be purchased at any sporting goods location or tackle shop.

Meals:

This year all units attending will be camping camporee style and will be responsible for cooking their own meals at their campsite. Saturday's dinner will also include a fish cooking competition for those who wish to participate. All meals for staff will be served in the picnic pavilion. Any staff dietary restrictions can be submitted to Vickie Ashworth at gecfishing@gmail.com. Please submit all dietary requests by Sept 15, 2025.

Preparing for the event:

Suggested Packing List

Tent	Flashlight
Sleeping Bag	Mess Kit for meals
Sleeping Pad / Cot	Water Bottle
Scout Uniform	Camp Chair
Unit Class B T-Shirt	Notebook, Pen or Pencil
Undergarments	Sharp Pocket Knife
Toiletries / Washcloth & Towel	Hat
Closed Toed Shoes / No Sandals	Sunscreen

Add-ons:

Participants may bring their own fishing gear if they choose to. Hooks must be barbless to prevent any accidents needing medical attention outside of our program medic. If your unit still requires BLUE CARDS, please bring one for each merit badge.

The council will provide the following equipment for all participants.

Zebco spin cast fishing poles

Fly fishing rods

Fly tying supplies

Tackle

Bait (Worms, Grubs, Power Bait)

Merit Badge books for reference

Knot Tying supplies

Program Information

The Complete Angler Weekend consists of two separate program elements: classroom instruction and outdoor application. Both Fishing and the Fly-Fishing MB have some of the same requirements and will be completed simultaneously.

Classroom instruction components will help Scouts and Scouters learn about basic knots used in fishing and angling, conservation practices, fishing and angling techniques and practices, different types of equipment and tackle, first aid and project development. Scouts should be prepared to answer questions and participate in all the discussions when called upon.

The outdoor application will enable Scouts and Scouters to take what they learned in the classroom and apply it at the lake. While at the lake, Scouts will continue to learn under the guidance of the Certified Angling Instructors as they practice casting, choosing the right baits, and hopefully land a fish or two! After the Scouts have caught their fish, they will go through a lesson on how to properly clean and cook their fish.

Fish and Wildlife Management requirements will be discussed via zoom with all participants 4 weeks prior to the event weekend. Please watch your emails for the date, time and zoom link. This will give the participants the opportunity to complete the project and research parts of the merit badge beforehand.



BSA Angling Educator Program

Offered Saturday Oct 4th from 8:30am-12:00pm

The **BSA Angling Educator** course was originally designed to provide fishing experts, from outside the Scouting community, with an understanding of the policies and procedures of BSA Fishing programs.

The **BSA Angling Educator for Scouters** course has now evolved, from a course for fishing experts, into a program to provide Scout Leaders, who have never fished, with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to take Cub Scouts, and young Scouts BSA, to a fishing pond or stream and help them to be successful.

Youth leaders can use this course to develop their skills to teach “Fishing Basics” to younger scouts. “Fishing Basics” is an education model developed by a member of the BSA National Fishing Committee in cooperation with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to teach basic fishing skills to Scouts.

BSA Angling Educator Vision:

- Increase the opportunity for Scouts to learn how to fish and experience good results.
- Provide fishing program ideas and resources for Packs, Troops, and Crews.
- Help Summer Camps offer quality fishing programs.
- Help provide a good fishery and “age-appropriate” fishing gear.
- Help identify and train Fishing and Fly-Fishing merit badge counselors.

What does an Angling Educator do:

- Teach fishing knowledge and skills to youth and adults.
- Assist with Cub Scout and Scouts BSA fishing programs.
- Serve as a Scouts BSA Merit Badge Counselor
- Use fishing skills at recruitment events with Backyard Bass.
- Train Camp Staff for fishing programs that work!
- Promote fishing at the Unit, District and Council levels.
- Join (or help form) a Council Fishing Committee.
- Work to improve fishing facilities, equipment and materials.
- Help build family fishing programs that work



Help Your Council or Unit Deliver a Quality Fishing Program

This course is designed to give Scouters tools and ideas to get Scouts fishing. We will ignite your desire to introduce Scouts to the wonderful world of fishing. Boy's Life recent survey found that Scouts chose fishing as the fourth most preferred outdoor activity, yet only 35% go fishing within Scouting. You can become a Fishing Advocate for your unit, district and council and utilize fishing as a good tool for Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation. Share your passion for fishing.

Course Highlights

1. Become recognized as a BSA Certified Angling Instructor and Official Train the Trainer Certification CS-61. Receive a CAI patch and Certificate.
2. Learn basic fly-fishing skills - fly casting, fly tying, knots and how to teach them.
3. As a CAI you will have an opportunity to get fishing and fly-fishing equipment at greatly reduced rates for teaching Scouts.

Fishing is a Favorite Outdoor Activity for Scouts

Fishing with Scouts is an outdoor activity providing Scouts with fun, skills development, family participation and strongly supports sound conservation awareness. Fishing receives very little support from most councils yet has great opportunity with minimal investment. Most camps offer marginal fishing programs and poor instruction. As a CAI you can make fishing a priority within your scouting world.

Who should attend?

Perfect also for Cub Scout, Boy Scout, and Venturing leaders, council properties managers and Fishing Camp School volunteers. If want to learn how we teach fishing for Scouts this is for you.

Suggested Syllabus and Schedule

Schedule is subject to change

Zoom meeting prior to weekend event - TBD

Start	End	Description	Merit Badge Req.
7:30pm	7:45pm	Expectations of Scouts Attending	
7:45pm	8:30pm	What is necessary to complete Fish and Wildlife Mgmt.	Req. 5, 6, 7d, 8

Friday

Start	End	Description	Merit Badge Req.
5:00pm	7:00pm	Scouts Check-in / Set up Camp. Decorate your camp site. There will be an award for the "Best Fishing Theme"	
7:15pm	7:30pm	Weekend Opening	
7:30pm	8:15pm	Safety; First Aid	F 1; FF 1
8:15pm		Grab your fishing pole, your glow stick and go fishing	
11:00pm		Quiet Time	
11:30pm		Lights Out – Unit Leaders conduct a bed check and report any missing Scouts.	

Saturday

Start	End	Description	Merit Badge Req.
	8:30am	Breakfast & Clean up	
9:00am	12:00pm	Knots - 8 knots to learn & demonstrate	F 4; FF 3
9:00am	12:00pm	Equipment - Fly, Spinning, Casting, Saltwater	F 2; FF 2
9:00am	12:00pm	Regulations	F 7; FF 8; lead into next subject
9:00am	12:00pm	Fly Tying & Artificial Lures; FWM discussion	F 5; FF 4. FWM 3, 4, 8
9:00am	12:00pm	Fish & Wildlife Mgmt. Practices	FWM 1, 2, & 3
12:00pm	2:00pm	Break for lunch and staff resting period. Go fishing!!	
1:15pm	2:00pm	All Participants Gather: Discuss Leave No Trace; Catch & Release, stream etiquette; Ocean Sport Fish Management	F 6 & 8; FF 7 & 9

2:00pm	5:00pm	How to Cast; Fly Casting Practice	F 3; FF 5
2:00pm	5:00pm	Cleaning Fish and Cooking Fish	F 10; FF 11
2:00pm	5:00pm	Match the hatch; Artificial Lures	F 5; FF4
5:00pm	7:00pm	Dinner & Clean up, fish cooking competition for those patrols wishing to participate for an award.	
7:00pm		Grab a fishing pole, a glow stick and go fishing.	
11:00pm		Quiet Time	
11:30pm		Lights Out – Unit Leaders conduct a bed check and report any missing Scouts.	

Sunday

Start	End	Description	Merit Badge Req.
7:30am	8:30am	Breakfast / Breakdown Camp	
8:30am	9:30am	Open Discussion for FWM	FWM 1-4
9:30am	12:00pm	Work on any open requirements. Or free fishing time Final Sign offs	
12:00pm	12:15pm	Closing	
12:15pm		Leave and / or enjoy fishing on your own	

After Weekend Zoom Meeting

Follow up Zoom Meetings with instructors and MB Counselors to make sure requirements are signed off as needed

Fish & Wildlife Requirements 1 - 8

During the zoom meeting that occurs 4 weeks before the Complete Angler Weekend, how to satisfy the requirements will be explained. This leaves the Scouts time to do what's required and bring evidence of the requirement completions to the weekend for sign off.