



Scouting America

GREATER CALIFORNIA COUNCIL
FISHING PROGRAM



3RD ANNUAL
COMPLETE ANGLER

WEEKEND CAMPOUT
PARTICIPANT & LEADERS GUIDE



OCTOBER 2-4, 2026

GIBSON RANCH REGIONAL PARK
— ELVERTA, CALIFORNIA —

SCOUTING AMERICA • GREATER CALIFORNIA COUNCIL



FISHING
MERIT BADGE



FLY FISHING
MERIT BADGE



FISH & WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT
MERIT BADGE



LEADING TO THE
COMPLETE ANGLER AWARD



learn skills • enjoy nature • make friends



A Letter from your Fishing Program Team

Dear Scouts, Scouters, and Families,

Welcome to the 3rd Annual Complete Angler Weekend Campout! We are excited to have you join us for a weekend of adventure, learning, and fun at beautiful Gibson Ranch Regional Park.

This campout is more than just a fishing event—it's an opportunity to learn new skills, enjoy the outdoors, and build lasting memories with friends and fellow Scouts. Whether you're casting a line for the first time or already an experienced angler, there's something here for everyone.

Throughout the weekend, you'll work toward earning three merit badges—Fishing, Fly Fishing, and Fish & Wildlife Management—that will help you grow your skills and understanding of our natural world. You'll also take part in fun activities, games, and challenges that make this event truly unforgettable.

We want to thank all the leaders, volunteers, and staff who have worked hard to make this weekend possible. Your dedication helps create a safe, exciting, and inspiring experience for every participant.

Remember, the best part of Scouting is the people you meet and the memories you make together. So cast your line, try something new, and most of all—have fun!

Yours in Scouting,

Your Fishing Program Team

Fishing Program Committee
Greater California Council



Learning Fishing Skills



Knot Tying



Fly Tying



Casting Lessons

LEARN IT.
LIVE IT.
TEACH IT.
SHARE IT.
FISH FOR LIFE.



CAMPOUT OVERVIEW

The Complete Angler Weekend Campout is a fun, hands-on experience where Scouts will build skills, connect with nature, and work toward earning three merit badges.

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Learn from experienced anglers and outdoor experts
- Develop fishing and conservation skills
- Participate in games, challenges, and camp activities
- Build friendships and create lasting memories

MERIT BADGES TO EARN



FISHING MERIT BADGE

Learn the basics of fishing, including tackle, bait, casting, and fish identification. Practice safety and responsible fishing and catch what you've learned!



FLY FISHING MERIT BADGE

Discover the art of fly fishing! Learn about flies, equipment, casting techniques, and how to catch fish using the fly fishing method.

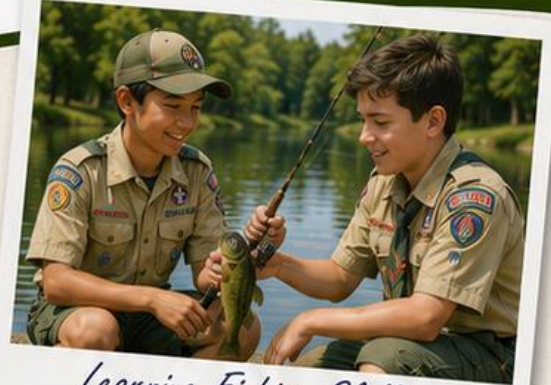


FISH & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT MERIT BADGE

Explore how we manage and protect fish and wildlife resources. Learn about habitats, conservation, and the role you can play in protecting our natural world.

WHO CAN ATTEND

This campout is open to all Scouts BSA youth. No prior experience is required—just a willingness to learn and have fun!



Learning Fishing Skills



Knot Tying



Fly Tying



Casting Lessons





WHY IT MATTERS

Fishing is more than a sport—it's a way to connect with nature, build confidence, and create lasting memories. At the Complete Angler Weekend Campout, Scouts will challenge themselves, learn new skills, and grow in the outdoors alongside friends and mentors.



WHAT SCOUTS WILL GAIN



PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE

Learn essential fishing techniques, tackle basics, knot tying, casting, and more.



CONFIDENCE & INDEPENDENCE

Try new things, solve challenges, and build self-reliance in a supportive environment.



TEAMWORK & LEADERSHIP

Work together with your patrol and other Scouts to complete challenges and earn merit badges.



CONSERVATION AWARENESS

Develop a deeper appreciation for our natural resources and learn how to protect them.



MEMORIES THAT LAST

Share laughs, stories, and experiences that you'll remember for years to come.



Tackle Basics



Fly Tying



Casting Instruction



Catch & Release Ethics



Unforgettable Memories

LEADERS: YOUR ROLE MAKES A DIFFERENCE



Guide & Inspire – Share your knowledge and experience to help Scouts succeed.



Ensure Safety – Help create a safe, supportive environment where everyone can thrive.



Encourage Growth – Celebrate effort, teamwork, and progress every step of the way.

"The best leaders don't just teach skills—they inspire a love for the outdoors and a passion for life."

CAMP SUCCESS TIPS

- ✓ Come prepared and ready to learn.
- ✓ Be respectful of nature, others, and yourself.
- ✓ Ask questions and try new things.
- ✓ Help each other and have fun!

learn skills • enjoy nature • make friends





SCOUTING IN ACTION

The Complete Angler Weekend Campout is your chance to live the Scout Oath and Law. Every activity you do—on the water and on the trail—helps you grow as a Scout and build memories that will last a lifetime.



BE TRUSTWORTHY

Follow safety rules, be honest, and do your best.



BE KIND

Show respect for others, for wildlife, and for the places we enjoy.



BE HELPFUL

Lend a hand, share your knowledge, and encourage your fellow Scouts.



BE COURTEOUS

Use good manners and treat everyone—anglers, staff, and fellow Scouts alike—with respect.



BE PREPARED

Come ready to learn, try new things, and make the most of every moment.



LEARN NEW SKILLS



EXPLORE TOGETHER



BUILD FRIENDSHIPS THAT LAST

WEEKEND SCHEDULE OVERVIEW



FRIDAY

- Check-in
- Camp Set Up
- Leader Meeting
- Dinner
- Opening Ceremony
- Campfire Program



SATURDAY

- Fishing Skills Stations
- Merit Badge Sessions
- Lunch
- Outdoor Activities & Games
- Dinner
- Campfire Program



SUNDAY

- Morning Fishing
- Merit Badge Sessions
- Lunch
- Closing Ceremony
- Check-out

Detailed schedule will be provided at check-in.



WHAT TO BRING

- ✓ BSA uniform (worn to check-in)
- ✓ Fishing gear & tackle
- ✓ Sunscreen & insect repellent
- ✓ Reusable water bottle
- ✓ Rain jacket or poncho
- ✓ Extra clothing (layers)
- ✓ Hat & sunglasses
- ✓ Sleeping bag & pillow
- ✓ Tent & ground cloth
- ✓ Flashlight or headlamp
- ✓ Camp chair (optional)
- ✓ Notebook & pen
- ✓ Merit badge pamphlet
- ✓ Good attitude!

Label all items with your name.

SKILLS YOU'LL DEVELOP



KNOT TYING



CASTING
TECHNIQUES



FISH HANDLING &
CATCH & RELEASE



OUTDOOR
KNOWLEDGE



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Stay with your patrol and follow the buddy system.
- Always follow safety instructions.
- In case of emergency, notify a staff member immediately.

learn skills • enjoy nature • make friends



GENERAL INFORMATION



WHAT IS COMPLETE ANGLER WEEKEND?

A weekend campout experience that helps Scouts and leaders learn fishing skills, enjoy the outdoors, and grow together in a safe and supportive environment.



WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Open to all Scouts BSA Troops and individual Scouts. All registered adult leaders are welcome and encouraged to attend. Family members are welcome to join in the fun and support the adventure!



EVENT LOCATION & DATES

WHEN: October 2–4, 2026
WHERE: Gibson Ranch Regional Park
8556 Gibson Ranch Road
Elverta, CA 95626

CHECK-IN: Friday, October 2, 2026
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CHECK-OUT: Sunday, October 4, 2026
Following the Closing Ceremony



REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- Registration Link: <https://scoutingevent.com/047-115850>
- Registration includes program, campsite, and meals.
- Registration deadline: September 18, 2026
- Fees are non-refundable after the deadline unless event is canceled.



YOUTH PROTECTION EXPECTATIONS

- All adults must be registered leaders.
- All adults must be current in Youth Protection Training.
- Two-deep leadership is required at all times.



MEDICAL FORMS REQUIRED

- All participants must have a current BSA Annual Health and Medical Record (Parts A & B).
- Parts A & B must be turned in at check-in.



PATROL METHOD OVERVIEW

The program is designed around the patrol method. Scouts will work and learn in their patrols, eat together, and participate in patrol activities.



CAMPING INFORMATION

- Tent camping only in designated unit campsites.
- Campsites include picnic tables.
- Units are responsible for maintaining clean campsite areas.
- Practice Leave No Trace principles throughout the weekend.
- **No campfires or open flames are permitted at this event.**



MEAL INFORMATION

- Meals are prepared and cooked by each unit within their campsite.
- Units are responsible for bringing their own cooking equipment, utensils, and food.
- Patrol cooking is encouraged to support youth leadership and teamwork.
- Proper food storage and sanitation practices should be followed at all times.



IMPORTANT SAFETY POLICY

NO CAMPFIRES ALLOWED

The use of campfires, charcoal fires, fire rings, and other open flames is prohibited at Gibson Ranch during this event. Units should plan meals and activities accordingly and follow all park regulations.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Greater California Council Fishing Program
Email: gecfishing@gmail.com
Council Website: <https://gcc-scouting.org/>
Questions? Contact us anytime.

IMPORTANT NOTES

- ✓ Fishing gear is provided for instructional sessions if needed.
- ✓ Scouts should bring personal camping gear.
- ✓ Merit badge pamphlets are encouraged.
- ✓ Program operates rain or shine.
- ✓ Adults attending with units must be registered leaders and current in Youth Protection Training.

WHAT TO EXPECT



Fishing Merit Badge



Fly Fishing Merit Badge



Fish & Wildlife Management
Merit Badge



Complete Angler Award
opportunities



Patrol activities



Time to relax and enjoy
Gibson Ranch





SUGGESTED SYLLABUS

The Complete Angler Weekend offers instruction and program opportunities that support advancement in the following Merit Badges and awards.

Blue text indicates required workshop. Green text indicates elective opportunities.



FISHING MERIT BADGE

- Fish and Society
- Fish Anatomy
- Fishing Equipment, Tackle, and Tools
- Knot Tying
- Fishing Skills
- Casting
- Fish Behavior
- Conservation of Fish
- Review and Wrap-Up / Requirements Check



FLY FISHING MERIT BADGE

- Fly-Fishing Equipment
- Knots for Fly Fishing
- Fly Casting
- Flies
- Entomology and Matching the Hatch
- Fly-Fishing Techniques
- Reading Water
- Conservation
- Review and Wrap-Up / Requirements Check



FISH & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT MERIT BADGE

- Wildlife Conservation
- Wildlife Management
- Wildlife Habitat
- Wildlife Identification
- Wildlife Law
- Wildlife Observation
- Careers in Fish and Wildlife Management
- Review and Wrap-Up / Requirements Check



COMPLETE ANGLER AWARD OPPORTUNITIES

Scouts may work toward the Complete Angler Award by completing requirements across the following areas:

- Fishing
- Fly Fishing
- Fish & Wildlife Management
- Boating Safety
- Aquatic Safety
- Conservation
- Outdoor Ethics

NOTES FOR LEADERS

- Syllabus and schedule are subject to change.
- Patrol rotations will be assigned at check-in.
- Leaders are encouraged to review merit badge pamphlets prior to arrival.
- Blue sessions are core instruction. Green sessions are elective and may vary.
- This program is designed to be fun, hands-on, and youth-led.



SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

FRIDAY – OCTOBER 2, 2026



TIME	ACTIVITY
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Check-In & Campsite Set-Up
7:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Leader Meeting & Patrol Assignments
8:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Opening Campfire Program (No Campfires – Program Only)
9:00 PM	Lights Out

SATURDAY – OCTOBER 3, 2026



TIME	ACTIVITY
7:00 AM	Reveille
7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Breakfast (Cooked in Campsite)
8:00 AM – 8:30 AM	Flag Ceremony & Announcements
8:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Session 1 (Required)
10:15 AM – 11:45 AM	Session 2 (Required)
11:45 AM – 1:00 PM	Lunch (Cooked in Campsite)
1:00 PM – 2:30 PM	Session 3 (Elective)
2:45 PM – 4:15 PM	Session 4 (Elective)
4:15 PM – 5:30 PM	Free Time / Fishing / Recreation
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM	Dinner (Cooked in Campsite)
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM	Evening Program (Guest Speaker / Activity)
8:30 PM – 9:30 PM	Patrol Time / Reflection
9:30 PM	Lights Out

SUNDAY – OCTOBER 4, 2026



TIME	ACTIVITY
7:00 AM	Reveille
7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Breakfast (Cooked in Campsite)
8:00 AM – 8:30 AM	Flag Ceremony & Announcements
8:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Session 5 (Elective / Make-Up)
10:15 AM – 11:45 AM	Session 6 (Elective / Make-Up)
11:45 AM – 12:30 PM	Lunch (Cooked in Campsite)
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	Closing Ceremony & Awards
1:30 PM – 2:00 PM	Campsite Clean-Up
2:00 PM	Check-Out / Safe Travels

PROGRAM ROTATION EXAMPLE (SATURDAY)

Units will rotate through sessions in patrol groups. This is an example only.

TIME	ROTATION 1	ROTATION 2	ROTATION 3	ROTATION 4
8:30 – 10:00 AM	Fishing MB	Fly Fishing MB	Fish & Wildlife MB	CA Award Elective
10:15 – 11:45 AM	Fly Fishing MB	Fish & Wildlife MB	CA Award Elective	Fishing MB
1:00 – 2:30 PM	Fish & Wildlife MB	CA Award Elective	Fishing MB	Fly Fishing MB
2:45 – 4:15 PM	CA Award Elective	Fishing MB	Fly Fishing MB	Fish & Wildlife MB

Blue = Required Workshop Green = Elective Opportunity



CERTIFIED ANGLING INSTRUCTOR (CAI) TRAINING

Complete Angler Weekend offers the opportunity for adults (15 years old and older) to become Certified Angling Instructors (CAI). This nationally recognized training certifies adult leaders to teach fishing skills and promote the sport of fishing to Scouts and other youth.



PURPOSE

The purpose of the CAI program is to provide Scouts and other interested adults with the knowledge and skills needed to teach basic angling and fishing-related skills in a fun, safe, and responsible manner.



WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

The CAI course combines classroom instruction, hands-on practice, and field teaching experience. Topics include:

- Introduction to the BSA fishing program
- Teaching techniques and lesson planning
- Fishing skills and equipment
- Knot tying and rigging
- Casting instruction
- Fish identification and aquatic resources
- Safe and responsible fishing practices
- Working with youth



WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

- Must be at least 15 years old.
- Must be a registered Scouter or Scouter volunteer.
- Must be current in BSA Youth Protection Training.
- No prior fishing instruction experience is required—just a willingness to learn and share!



CERTIFICATION

Upon successful completion of the course, you will become a Certified Angling Instructor. Certification is valid for three (3) years and may be renewed through recertification training.



WHAT TO BRING

- Writing materials
- Notebook or binder
- Personal fishing equipment (optional)
- Appropriate clothing for outdoor activities
- Enthusiasm and a desire to teach!

CAI COURSE DETAILS



WHEN

Friday, October 2 –
 Sunday, October 4, 2026
 (All day training)



WHERE

Gibson Ranch Regional Park
 8556 Gibson Ranch Park Road
 Elverta, CA 95626



CAI COURSE DIRECTOR

Vickie Bagley



STAFF

CAI Course Director and
 Certified Angling Instructors



REQUIREMENTS

- Attend all training sessions
- Participate in teaching exercises
- Demonstrate proficiency in basic skills
- Follow BSA safety guidelines



COST

CAI course fee includes training materials, instruction, and certification.
 (See registration site for current fee.)

BENEFITS OF BECOMING A CAI

- ✓ Help Scouts and youth gain confidence and skills in fishing.
- ✓ Support the BSA fishing program at the unit, district, and council level.
- ✓ Enhance your leadership skills.
- ✓ Join a network of dedicated fishing instructors.
- ✓ Make a lasting impact on the next generation of anglers.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION



Register for the CAI course at:
<https://scoutingevent.com/047-115654>
 Space is limited. Register early!

QUESTIONS?



Contact the Greater California Council Fishing Program
 Email: gecfishing@gmail.com
 Council Website: <https://gcc-scouting.org/>



BSA ANGLING EDUCATOR TRAINING

TEACH FISHING. INSPIRE SCOUTS. GROW THE PROGRAM.



The Angling Educator course is a national Scouting America supplemental training course that prepares Scouts and adult volunteers to teach fishing basics and assist with quality fishing programs throughout Scouting America.



PURPOSE

To prepare Scouts and adult volunteers to teach fishing basics and assist with quality fishing programs that promote outdoor skills, conservation, and the Scouting experience.



WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

- Scouts and Scouters 15 years of age and older
- Current Youth Protection Training required for adults
- No prior fishing instruction experience required
- Enthusiasm and willingness to teach others



COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

- Fishing Basics Instruction
- Fishing Ethics
- Knot Tying
- Recruitment Through Fishing
- Casting Skills
- Teaching Youth
- Fish Identification
- Event Support Techniques



WHAT ANGLING EDUCATORS CAN DO

- Assist with Cub Scout Family Fishing Days
- Support Fishing Merit Badge instruction
- Help conduct fishing derbies
- Teach fishing fundamentals
- Promote outdoor skills and conservation
- Encourage recruitment and retention through fishing



ALL EVENT YOUTH STAFF ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THIS COURSE

This training ensures all youth staff have the knowledge and skills to provide safe, fun, and successful fishing experiences for Scouts and families.



WHEN: To Be Determined



WHERE: To Be Determined

PRESENTED BY

Greater California Council Fishing Program

QUESTIONS?



Email: gecfishing@gmail.com



Council Website: <https://gcc-scouting.org/>





★ **LEADER RESPONSIBILITIES & FINAL REQUIREMENT SIGN-OFF** ★



A MESSAGE TO UNIT LEADERS

Thank you for investing your time, talents, and leadership to provide Scouts with meaningful outdoor experiences. The success of Complete Angler Weekend depends on the partnership between our event staff and unit leadership.

While every effort is made to provide quality instruction and opportunities for Scouts to complete requirements during the weekend, individual progress may vary.



MERIT BADGE COMPLETION

Scouts may have the opportunity to complete requirements for:

- Fishing Merit Badge
- Fly Fishing Merit Badge
- Fish & Wildlife Management Merit Badge
- Complete Angler Award requirements

Scouts who do not complete all requirements during the event should receive clear guidance regarding any remaining requirements.



UNIT LEADER RESPONSIBILITIES

Unit leaders are responsible for:

- Reviewing each Scout's advancement progress.
- Verifying participation and effort throughout the weekend.
- Ensuring Scouts understand any requirements that remain incomplete.
- Approving and signing off on requirements that are properly completed after returning home, in accordance with Scouting America advancement policies.
- Encouraging Scouts to continue practicing the skills learned during this event.



ADVANCEMENT POLICY

Event instructors may provide instruction, testing, and recommendations; however, the **Scout's unit leader** retains the responsibility for recording advancement and approving completion of any requirements not finished during the Complete Angler Weekend.

Unit leaders should use Scout handbooks, merit badge pamphlets, blue cards, Scoutbook, or other approved advancement recording methods to document completion.



KEEP THE ADVENTURE GOING

The purpose of this weekend extends beyond earning badges. Fishing teaches patience, conservation, confidence, leadership, and a lifelong appreciation for the outdoors.

Continue the journey by:

- ✓ Scheduling unit fishing outings.
- ✓ Encouraging participation in local derbies and conservation projects.
- ✓ Supporting Scouts pursuing the Complete Angler Award.
- ✓ Sharing newly learned skills with younger Scouts.
- ✓ Promoting a lifelong love of fishing and outdoor stewardship.



IMPORTANT REMINDER

Adult leaders are responsible for signing off on final requirements not completed at the event.

Please follow all Scouting America advancement policies and ensure Scouts receive proper credit for their work.



Thank you for helping us create an unforgettable experience for every Scout.

Tight lines and Fish On!

Greater California Council Fishing Program

**GIBSON RANCH
REGIONAL PARK**

See you next time!