

## **Why We Offer AE (Angling Educator) and CAI (Certified Angling Instructor) Training:**

- **Scouts want to fish!** We know that fishing is very popular with Scouts. AEs and CAIs teach fishing! Cub and Scout units today do not offer enough fishing events to meet the interests of our youth. Adding AEs and CAIs to Councils will expand BSA fishing events and education, providing advancement and outdoor adventure opportunities to all.
- Most Scout camps do not offer an effective fishing program, nor do they have an adequate, well-managed fishery to attract and retain Scouts. AEs and CAIs help design and develop camp fisheries!
- **Our goal is to strengthen Council fishing programs and help them understand the great opportunities that fishing offers for recruitment and retention. Councils that have welcomed AE and CAI programs have seen significant improvement in their fishing programs.**
- We need qualified and committed local champions to promote good fisheries, work with other AEs and CAIs within the Council, and identify qualified merit badge counselors for the Fishing, Fly-fishing, and Fish and Wildlife Management merit badges.

## **The Angling Educator (AE) Program**

What is an Angling Educator? An Angling Educator is a trained Scouter or non-Scouter who serves to:

- Teach fishing knowledge and skills to youth and adults.
- Assist with Cub Scout, Scouts BSA and Venturing fishing programs and events.
- Use fishing knowledge and skills to support recruitment events.
- Serve as a Scouts BSA Merit Badge Counselor.
- 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 Council fishing facilities, equipment and materials.

### **AE Course Goals**

The AE course is designed to:

- Provide the knowledge and skills you need to teach fishing and a love of the outdoors to Scouts and other Scouters.
- Develop a team to promote and support Council fishing as a means to Recruit, Retain and Reactivate youth and adults.
- Help you partner with organizations supporting BSA Fishing The primary focus is on beginner fishing: Keep It Simple – Make It Fun!

## **AE Course Content**

The Angling Educator presentation comes in two parts. Each can be presented in a 2-hour online session or combined into a 1-day in-person class. Course content includes:

- Why Fishing?
- Fishing Outfits and Terminal Tackle / Fishing Knots
- Outdoor Ethics, Outdoor Code and Leave No Trace
- Catch and Release / Fishing Regulations
- Fish Identification / Where to Find Fish in Ponds and Lakes
- Fishing Trip Checklist
- AE Course Participant Qualifications
- Baits and Lures
- Health and Safety / First Aid, including Hook Removal
- Casting
- BSA Fishing Programs / Fishing-related Merit Badges / The Complete Angler Award
- Council Camp Fishery Management
- Working with Councils
- Fishing Program Resources

The Angling Educator Course was originally developed to teach non-Scouters how to work with BSA youth fishing programs, and included important BSA topics such as Outdoor Ethics, Leave No Trace, and especially Youth Protection. Non-Scouter AE course participants were expected to have relevant fishing knowledge and skills, appropriate for Scouting age youth, including basic fishing with a cane or crappie pole, spincast outfit, spinning outfit, or fly-fishing outfit.

The Angling Educator for Scouters evolved from this to meet the need for more complete instruction in fishing techniques and how to plan, prepare for, and conduct youth fishing events. Participants are expected to be Scouters in good standing, who have a desire to bring fishing programs to their Unit, District or Council or to support National fishing programs.

### **The Certified Angling Instructor (CAI) Program**

What is a Certified Angling Instructor? The BSA Certified Angling Instructor is central to BSA fishing programs. He or she serves as:

- A qualified BSA instructor for fishing and fly-fishing programs or merit badges.
- A fishing program advocate and resource for Cub Scout, Scouts BSA, and Venturing Units.
- One who develops, leads and supports Council, District or Unit level fishing programs.
- One who supports fishing programs at National Jamborees, National Order of the Arrow Conferences, and BSA high-adventure base staff training events.
- A “Trainer of trainers”.

### **CAI Course Goals**

The CAI course is designed to develop active CAIs to develop and support BSA fishing programs and to enhance the BSA’s ability to Recruit, Retain and Reactivate youth and adults into Scouting. The course is designed to:

- Give hands-on experience of both conventional and fly casting; fly-tying; fishing knots; finding, hooking, fighting, landing and releasing fish; fishing etiquette; ethics and more - and how to teach these skills.

- Participate in discussions about National, Council, District and Unit fishing programs.
- Review and utilize Merit Badge Counselor presentations and instructor guides for the Fishing, Fly-Fishing, and Fish and Wildlife Management merit badges.
- Learn about the new Complete Angler Award for Scouts.
- Encourage prospective CAIs to commit to making fishing a priority within the Council, District and Unit.

### **CAI Course Content**

The CAI Course is designed to qualify Scouters and camp staff to teach fishing skills from basic cane pole to fly-fishing; Cubs to Venturers. Course content should fit the needs of the participants; content emphasis may vary from course to course. Course topics should stay close to the established agenda, but should remain flexible to meet the needs and interests of the participants. As an official BSA training course, this course requires a minimum of 18 hours instruction time. Currently in six 2-hour modules, the course includes:

- A Brief History of Fishing / • Why BSA Fishing is Important / • BSA Fishing Organization
- Program Delivery Methods
- Fishing-related Awards
- Conventional and Fly-Fishing Gear
- Health and Safety
- Fishing Ethics / • Leave No Trace / • Fishing Regulations
- Conservation / • Fishery Management
- How to Plan and Run a Fishing Event
- The Nature of Fish / • Where to Find Fish
- Fishing Knots / • Casting / • Basic Fishing Knowledge and Skills

- How to Clean and Cook a Fish
- Fishing Basics (summary)
- Angling Educator (summary)
- Supplemental CAI Modules
- Resources and Special Offers
- Opportunities and Challenges
- Delivering the Promise

As a Course Director, you are responsible to plan and conduct the course, as well as follow up afterward. The Certified Angling Instructor Course Agenda appendix is an outline for a notional CAI Course. Guidelines for initial and detailed planning are included in the following sections.

### **CAI Course Participant Qualifications**

Adult Scouters desiring to “Deliver the Promise” through fishing-related programs are encouraged to take the CAI Course. All Fishing, Fly-Fishing, and Fish and Wildlife Management Merit Badge Counselors will find the course beneficial. All Cub Scout Day Camp program instructors and Scout Camp instructors who wish to enhance their programs with fishing opportunities will realize the value of Scout fishing by taking this course.

Fishing is a program magnet for Scouts and those who can make a good fishery happen will benefit greatly with this course.

Youth participants must have completed both the Fishing and Fly-Fishing merit badges and must be 15 years old at the start of the course and must be willing and mature enough to conduct themselves appropriately in an adult position. Youth younger than 15 who have completed both the Fishing and Fly-Fishing merit badges and who

teach Fishing or Fly-Fishing in Summer Camp and have the maturity to serve in an adult position, might be an exception.

All participants in the course must complete the entire course to graduate. This course has been developed to serve the needs of Scouting's outdoor programs.

Individuals from outside BSA who have an interest in both youth fishing and our BSA outdoor programs can attend with host Council approval. Public or private recreation land managers or members of outdoor youth organizations can bring a highly valuable perspective to course discussions. Overall course format options are flexible enough to meet our Guide to Safe Scouting (e.g., Youth Protection Plan) when non-BSA individuals or groups are invited to attend.