



Catch the Big One

Cub Scouts · Elective · Webelos rank

Name

Started

Completed

Catch the Big One is about planning and going on a real fishing trip. You'll learn where fish live, get your gear ready, and tie your own knot. Being patient on the water is part of the fun.

Requirements

Every official requirement, in plain language. Check the official wording when you sign off (scouting.org/cub-scout-adventures/catch-the-big-one/). Tips and examples are ideas, not extra requirements.

- ☐ **1** Plan a fishing trip: decide where you'll go and what kind of fish you hope to catch; base all remaining requirements on that choice

Tip: With an adult, pick a nearby lake, pond, or river and find out what fish live there.

Example: Your plan might be: "We'll fish for bluegill at the park pond on Saturday morning, from the dock, using worms on small hooks." Write where, when, who's going, and which fish you're after.

- ☐ **2** Use the SAFE Checklist to plan what you'll need for your fishing trip

Tip: Go over each SAFE point, like having a trained adult along and wearing life jackets near deep water.

- ☐ **3** Describe the habitat where your fish might be found

Tip: Find out if your fish likes weeds, rocks, shade, or deep water.

Example: Bluegill like warm, shallow water near weeds and docks. Catfish often stay near the bottom in deeper water. Write down where your fish hides, what it eats, and what time of day it's active.

☐ **4** List the equipment and materials you'll need to fish

Tip: Make a checklist: rod, hooks, bait, bucket, sunscreen, water, and anything else you'll need.

Example: A checklist could include: rod and reel, hooks, bobbers, small weights, bait, a bucket, pliers, life jackets if near deep water, sunscreen, hat, water, snacks, and your Six Essentials.

☐ **5** Pick the best knot for attaching your hook to the line, and tie it

Tip: Practice an improved clinch knot or similar knot on a hook with a big piece of string first.

Example: The improved clinch knot: thread the line through the hook eye, wrap it around itself five times, push the end through the small loop by the eye, wet it, and pull it tight.

☐ **6** Pick the right kind of rod and tackle for your trip; have an adult check your gear

Tip: Choose a rod that fits your size and the fish you're after, then show it to an adult.

☐ **7** Using what you've learned about fish and gear, fish for at least one hour, following local rules and regulations

Tip: Check local fishing rules with an adult. Be patient and enjoy being outside.