



Fly-Fishing Merit

1. Write a one-hundred-word essay about the history of fly-fishing in the United States. Include a segment on American Indians.
2. Explain at least three ways that fly-fishing is different from any other fishing method.
3. Explain the differences between the wet fly presentation and the dry fly presentation.
4. Name five living things dry flies are designed to imitate and five living things wet flies are designed to imitate.
5. Assemble the following gear (purchase or borrow) and explain its purpose:

a. Wading gear	f. Wet flies
b. Wide-brim hat	g. Dry flies
c. Protective tinted eyewear	h. Bait container
d. Fly-line reel	i. Fly rod
e. Fly line	j. Creel
6. Learn to tie three of the following useful knots and explain how a fly fisherman would use them.

a. Tube knot	d. Blood knot
b. Surgeon's knot	e. Bait hook knot
c. Clincher knot	f. Tucked sheet knot
7. Write the definition of each of these items in the fly fisherman's vocabulary.

a. Dead drift	i. Riffles
b. Upstream	j. Strike indicator
c. Downstream	k. Strike
d. Twitch	l. Pool
e. Tip action	m. Hackle
f. Short strip	n. Tippet
g. Long strip	o. Leader
h. Split shot	p. Catch and release

Leader's Initials

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8. List the creel limits, likely species of fish to be taken, and license requirements for your state.
9. Select a mentor (approved by your commander) who has some skill and experience in fly-fishing. With the mentor's assistance and approval, complete the following:
 - a. Demonstrate three or more basic knots from Requirement 6.
 - b. Review the vocabulary terms from Requirement 7.
 - c. Practice casting in a closely mowed grassy area that is free of any obstruction for an area at least eighty feet in diameter. Use a wad of colorful yarn (no hooks) as the bait and a paper plate as a target and learn to cast consistently twenty-five to forty feet and hit or come near the target.
 - d. Move to a body of quiet water (pond or lake) and practice with a dry or wet fly, following your mentor's recommendation when your mentor believes that your skill level would allow some success. Comply with your state's license requirements as needed.
 - e. Move to an area where it is likely that fish may be taken following your mentor's recommendation. Observe all creel limits and license requirements for your state.
 - f. Go on two or more fly-fishing outings and record the following information for each outing:
 1. Species of fish caught
 2. Length of each fish
 3. Weight of each fish
 4. Bait used
 5. Date taken
 - g. Place your mentor's report in your workbook.

Leader's
Initials

Date _____

