



# FISH ON!

Certified Angling Instructor

June 2018

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## CAI Newsletter

FISH ON! Is the CAI Newsletter providing information on training, upcoming events, introduction to new CAI's, and more. Have something interesting to share with group? Send it to [pjperea@gmail.com](mailto:pjperea@gmail.com)

### Ben's Tight Lines

Our CAIs are bringing fishing opportunities to our Scouting Youth at record numbers. I wish to thank each and every CAI as well as our National Fishing Subcommittee for their leadership.

The National Fishing Subcommittee has established five Vice Chairmen to lead key areas focusing on achieving our Mission and Objectives. Pete Adams will lead the Fishing Programs Group; Chris Yates will lead the Angling Education Group; Rick Kagawa will lead the Fisheries Management Group; and David Lund and PJ Perea will co-manage the Marketing and Communications Group. Each member of the Fishing Task Force is assigned to at least one of these areas.

We still depend on our four Regional Chairmen to lead programs for the Area and Council levels and to broaden our CAIs to support fishing within every Council. We plan to have a Course Director Conference (CDC) for each region (See Regional Reports). Please encourage your CAIs to attend a CDC to expand the reach of our fishing outreach program.

This year we are certifying all fishing staff at the four BSA High Adventure Bases, which will add greatly to our CAI numbers. David Black is leading the Philmont CAI training first week in June. Fred Hodge and his team of four will be at the Northern Tier for two-day CAI training the second week in June. Michael Brand and Ron Killian will be at the Summit for CAI training for their staff. Chris Yates and Bill Pepito ran a CAI course at the Florida Sea Base in February and may be back in June for their summer staff, if their CAI Captains need help.

The Fly Fishing Merit Badge book upgrade is complete thanks to Pete Adams, with a full revision of the fly tying section plus lots of other upgrades. We will submit it to the Merit Badge team to implement the changes for the next printing and hopefully be in distribution early next year. One change will require Scouts to safely release a fish they caught.

Al Lambert was recently appointed to a new position as BSA National Vice Chief of Programs, thus reporting directly to Chief Scout Executive Mike Surbaugh. This raises Outdoor Programs and our National Fishing Subcommittee to a much higher focus under the Vice Chief Lambert. The head of Outdoor Programs, Frank Reigelman, now reports directly to Lambert who has challenged Frank to come up with some "Game Changers" in the world of outdoor programs. Rob Kolb, our professional advisor has identified Fishing and the benefits of having camps place more emphasis on fishing. He pointed out that fishing offers a low cost, gender neutral and popular option to deliver unrealized potential.

The CAI program's challenge is to make fishing a "Game Changer" in delivering programs for Scouting's youth. Let's make it happen!!!! — *Ben Jelsema*



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## Fisheries Management

The last few months have been a journey that was started in the BSA National Fishing Task Force Meeting. It was a Jeff "Gator" Wilson's place in the Florida Keys. Meeting new like-minded people is always a delight. Especially when we could discuss fishing, family and Scouting in the same sentence. The weirdest thing is no one thought it was strange that we could combine all those subjects in one sentence.

While I was at this meeting, I was told my new job was going to be fisheries management. It was described to me as a position to promote fishing places inside and outside Boy Scout Camps and to work with State fisheries agencies to develop an assessment and prescription for the camp ponds. Our goal is to have a youth catch a fish in the first 20 minutes of fishing.

Sitting at the table the first day, I typed out a message to the head biologist in my home state of California. I figured I might as well start at home. I asked if they could do this assessment. The next morning, I got a response from him. He was excited about the project and he had an Eagle Scout on his staff who would love to spearhead the project! I then got excited.

The next thing to do was to talk to the Eagle Scout and find camps in California where we could start this project. I know Southern California camps pretty well. The challenge is to find one with a permanent body of water. There were only two that I could find. Then, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife had to hire a new biologist for the area. We are at a standstill until they hire a replacement.

I sent out a questionnaire to the BSA Certified Angler Instructors about where they like to fish. One answered back and I found out she was the Aquatics Education Coordinator for the State of Texas. I contacted her and she told me that Texas did not support private lakes and ponds but, they had someone who may be willing to help. He was great! We have four ponds to survey as I am writing this article.

I then contacted the fish biologist in Massachusetts. He told me the same thing as Texas that they did not support ponds on private land. Unfortunately, he didn't have a referral for me. He told me there is a project in West Massachusetts. It is public water next a Scout camp. It is being spearheaded by our committee member, Bob Sousa.

I need help talking to all the states. Thank you, Jacquelyn Core for stepping up. She has contacts in West Virginia and Pennsylvania. I am currently talking to Missouri and have contacts in Indiana. My goal is to have a contact in every state for BSA Camps to contact when they have a question about pond/lake management. Please let me know if you have a contact in your state that can help with BSA fisheries at [rkagawa@thekhome.com](mailto:rkagawa@thekhome.com).

The problem is many camps make assumptions about what will make their lakes better. The assume part unfortunately is often wrong and expensive.

We want to get kids out fishing and having fun. Fishing without fish is no fun. — *Rick Kagawa*



## Scout 'n Fish Contest

Here is a contest open to all BSA youth on the Facebook for the Scout 'n Fish page.

Parents, can post the pictures. You should not catch the fish, a Scout is Trustworthy after all!

This contest will be for the youth who catches the most species of fish in a 3 month period starting in May. The youth will win a BSA Micro Spincast Combo. Post the photos at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/922784414562103/>



## CAI Regional Reports

### Southeast Region:

Greetings all, Glad to be somewhat back in the saddle after my bout with kidney failure and still among the living!

The Old Hickory Council will host a CAI Course at Camp Raven in Mounty Airy, NC, on September 12, 2018.

David Lund has volunteered to host a CAI Course Director Conference (CDC) at Camp Barstow at Lake Murray, SC this fall. Chris Yates and Greg Sammel (vice-chair for Program) will identify a date soon. Chris Yates is in the process of developing a structured syllabus for our CAI CDC.

If you have fly reels for 5/6 weight lines that are no longer needed and in good working order, I am in need of reels and would be greatly appreciate it I have rods with no reels. — *Bill Pepito*

### Western Region

The Western Region will host the a CAI Course in the Sequoia Council on June 8, 2018 at Camp Chawanee on Shaver Lake, CA, and a CAI CDC at the Philmont Training Center on September 16, 2018. — *Tim Beaty*

### Northeast Region

The Patriot's Path Council is hosting a CAI Course at Mount Allamuchy Scout Reservation in Stanhope, NJ, on June 22, 2018 and the New Birth Freedom Council will be hosting a CAI Course on August 24, 2018 at Camp Tuckahoe in Dillsburg, PA. The Northeast Region has a CAI CDC is planned at the Catskill Fly Fishing Museum in Livingston Manor, NY on June 8, 2018. — *Jim Byrd*

### Central Region

The Hawkeye Are Council will be hosting a CAI Course at Howard H. Cherry Scout Reservation on August 17, 2018. The Central Region CDC is scheduled on November 2, 2018 at Camp Drake in Champaign, IL. — *Michael Brand*



Congratulations to BSA National Task Force Regional Chairman Tim Beaty! Beaty was awarded the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award in Ogden, Utah on April 28, 2018.

Congratulations to BSA National Task Force Vice Chairman PJ Perea on receiving the William T. Hornaday Gold Badge from the Georgia-Carolina Council.



## National Order of the Arrow Conference



The National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC) is the premier event of the Order of the Arrow and is Scouting's second-largest national event. From July 30 through August 4, several thousand Arrowmen from across the nation will gather at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana.

A few BSA Certified Angling Instructors (CAIs) will offer Scouts the opportunity to tie a fly or two and cast a fly rod. At the last NOAC, we tied Woolly Buggers and Clouser Minnows in OA red and white on large safety pins. Scouts wore these as they sampled other activities, which helped “spread the word” that we were there. We plan to offer similar opportunities this year. To learn more about NOAC, visit <https://noac2018.org>.

## VenturingFest



VenturingFest 2018, the second national gathering of Venturers at the Summit Bechtel Reserve (SBR) is scheduled from July 1 to July 6. VenturingFest is a special Scouting event at SBR that's open to registered Venturers, Scouts and adult leaders across the U.S. This six-day high-adventure festival invites participants to explore the best the SBR has to offer. Activities include rock climbing, skateboarding, BMX biking, water sports, shooting sports, zip lines, challenge courses, and of course fishing!

Conventional fishing with a variety of different outfits will be done from the docks. Fly fishing activities will include fly tying, fly casting and fishing in Goodrich Lake. Although we're not offering a full merit badge program as we did at the Jamboree, Scouts with signed blue cards may be able to complete some of the requirements for either the Fishing or Fly Fishing merit badge. For more information go to: <http://www.summitbsa.org/venturingfest> — *Pete Adams*



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## From the Chief: Angling for Success

By Mike Surbaugh

Give a man a fish, and he'll eat for a day. Teach a man to fish, and he'll have a life-long hobby.

Few activities are so fundamental to the human experience as fishing. Hailing from the hunter-gatherer days, fishing offers timeless benefits to the body and soul.

Whether you're casting knee-deep in a chilly mountain stream first thing in the morning or dropping a line off the dock in the heat of the afternoon sun, fishing is the outdoorsman's meditation. Nothing but you, the scenery and the quiet. Fishing teaches people the art of sitting with their thoughts, an important lesson in our world of technology-enabled interruption. Beyond that, it teaches the necessity of patience and persistence while demonstrating that though good things come to those who wait, there are no guarantees in life. But that shouldn't stop you from trying.

The perks of fishing extend beyond the mental and moral lessons of the experience; there are actual physical health benefits of fishing, as well. Getting to a good fishing spot often requires some variety of exercise, be it hiking, rowing or paddling. Sunlight gives us vital vitamin D, and time in nature is shown to reduce stress, potentially lowering blood pressure.

Fishing also is a fun way to use and build your Scouting knowledge. It's a basic survival skill that requires use of knots, the ability to navigate nature while leaving no trace and, potentially, the use of first aid. If a Scout knows all that, plus the basics of the equipment and its use, he or she will be well on the way to earning the Fishing merit badge! Incidentally, it is an elective badge for earning a William T. Hornaday award, which you can learn about in this issue.

Above all, fishing is fun. It's a great opportunity to bond with family or friends by practicing a skill together and sharing an experience. It can also inspire your travel plans or help you better appreciate where you live. Whether you visit a beach or frequent your neighborhood pond, fishing can help you notice nature in a whole new way. Next time you're planning an adventure, consider adding fishing to the itinerary and see how the experience treats you. You just might find yourself hanging a "Gone Fishing" sign on your door on a regular basis.

Yours in Scouting,

Michael Surbaugh

Chief Scout Executive

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Northeast Region - [James Byrd](#)  
Southern Region - [Bill Pepito](#)  
Western Region - [Tim Beaty](#)

## Resources

[BCAI - https://bcai.wildapricot.org/](https://bcai.wildapricot.org/)

[BCAI Resources and Links—https://bcai.wildapricot.org/page-18062](https://bcai.wildapricot.org/page-18062)

[Adaptive Outdoors —http://adaptiveoutdoorsman.com/handicapfishing.html](http://adaptiveoutdoorsman.com/handicapfishing.html)