OUTDOOR ADVENTURER
FISHING FOR THE BEGINNER

NAME__________________ AGE______
ADDRESS________________ 
CLUB__________________ 
ADVISOR________________
COUNTY_________________
Outdoor Adventurer

Fishing for the Beginner was prepared by Duane Plymale, District 4-H Specialist, South District. Member Project Guide was prepared by Ken Lafontaine, Extension 4-H Agent, Hardin County. Cover design by Jodi Barnhill.

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TDD No. 800-589-8292 (Ohio only) or 614-292-1868
Reprinted 2/12---1.6M---P60737
4-H OUTDOOR ADVENTURER . . .
Fishing For The Beginner

WHAT WE WILL LEARN

Your 4-H fishing project will give you many chances for fun and learning this coming year. Here is what we hope you will learn your first year in the fishing project:

- Outdoor experiences in fishing.
- Field and stream activities.
- More about conservation.
- What fish are found in Ohio.
- Parts of fish.
- About water safety.
- More about 4-H.

HOW WE WILL LEARN

For your first year project, you should try to attend and be part of 4-H club meetings, and fill out the project book. From the suggested activities listed in this project book, it is hoped that your advisor, some parents, club officers and junior leaders will sit down and plan the yearly program. Along with suggested activities, we are sure you can come up with more events for everyone to participate in for the coming year. This 4-H fishing project should not be limited by just what is listed under the activities sheets.

DEMONSTRATIONS

Every member should try to give a demonstration sometime during the year. These talks will help you show others safety procedures, conservation tips, camping hints, parts of the fish, or anything else you feel is important. Use everyday materials to show how to do something.

For additional help, ask your 4-H agent or advisor for 4-H 909, Demonstrations. Remember, everyone who gives a demonstration is a winner.

EXHIBIT AT COUNTY FAIR

You will want to make something to exhibit at the county fair. An exhibition showing some type of fish life cycle, fish found in Ohio, or conservation, would be adequate for your exhibit.

Club exhibits should be on conservation.

OTHER 4-H PROJECTS

There are a number of other 4-H projects that will help you enjoy and broaden your experiences with the fishing project during the coming years. We suggest that you or your club consider one companion project during each of the coming years so that your experiences and knowledge will grow in 4-H. Some suggested 4-H companion projects are:

- Let's Explore The Outdoors I
- Let's Explore The Outdoors II
- Exploring Ohio Ponds
- Ohio Birds
- Ohio Mammals
- Exploring Our Forest
- Exploring the World of Plants & Soils
- Rope
- Veterinary Science
- Photography
- First Aid
- At Your Disposal: A Cleaner Environment
- Exploring The World of Insects I
Member's Project Guide

Project Background

This beginning level project is designed for 9- to 12-year-old members. It is, however, an excellent starting point for any age youth who has little or no fishing experience and wants to learn the basics. The experienced fisherman should begin with the next project, Fishing for the Intermediate (4-H 624).

Check your county's project guidelines (if any) for additional requirements, especially if you wish to participate in county project judging or plan to exhibit at the county fair.

Members who complete the project are encouraged to take Fishing for the Intermediate (4-H 624). Check your Family Guide to 4-H or ask your advisor for details.

Project Guidelines

1. Complete the Planning Section of this guide (Steps 1 through 4).
2. Explore all five Interest Areas.
3. Complete all questions and answer sections within each Interest Area.
4. Take part in at least two Learning Experiences.
5. Become involved in a least two Citizenship/Leadership activities.
6. Complete all county project requirements. (Check with your club advisor for these.)
7. Work with one or more members and adults to complete one of the suggested activities on pages 20 through 25.

Planning Your Project

Step 1: Interest Areas

Explore all five Interest Areas. As you begin to investigate an area, place the current date (month and year) next to it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Started</th>
<th>Interest Areas</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. Basic Fish Facts, Pages 7, 8</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Parts of the Fish, Page 9</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. How We Catch Fish, Pages 10 to 12</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. Equipment Needed for Fishing, Pages 12, 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5. What Fish Are Found in Ohio?, Pages 13 to 17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Step 2: Things To Do

Complete all questions and answer activities in each Interest Area. Have your parent or advisor initial and date what you complete.

Step 3: Learning Experiences

Select at least two of the Learning Experiences listed and plan your involvement in the “Report of Learning Experiences” chart. Before starting your project, write your choices in the section labeled “Plan to Do.” Once you have completed an activity, record what you did and when. Learning Experiences may be added or changed at any time.
Sample Learning Experiences

County Project Judging
Demonstration
Fishing Clinic
Fishing Exhibit
Fishing Trip
Illustrated Talk
Mall Show
Project Meetings
Radio or Television Presentation
Speech
Tour

Report of Learning Experiences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan To Do</th>
<th>What I Did</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Example)</td>
<td>I demonstrated how to properly bait a hook</td>
<td>June 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Step 4: Leadership/Citizenship Activities

Check the activities you wish to do or plan your own the space provided. Do at least two. Keep track of your progress by marking the date (month and year) what you complete. Leadership/Citizenship activities may be added or changed at any time.

**Leadership/Citizenship Activities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan To Do</th>
<th>Date Completed</th>
<th>Activity Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Encourage someone to take a fishing project</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Help someone with his or her fishing project</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Help stock a public pond</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Teach someone about fishing basics</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Invite someone to talk to your club about fishing</td>
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<td>Help clean-up a littered fishing area</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Help establish fish habitat areas in local pond or lake</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Apply something you learned about fishing to benefit your family or community</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Encourage friends to join 4-H</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Help organize a fishing derby/fishing clinic</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Plan your own activities here.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Project Review**

Once you finish your planned activities have your parent or advisor review the project with you. Depending on your county system, you could receive special 4-H project awards for your efforts. Advisor should refer to *Advisor's Guide to 4-H Project Planning and Incentive Programs (4-H 956)* for details.
Basic Fish Facts

Are Fish Important?

Fish have been an important source of food for man ever since recorded time. Next to agricultural products, fish provide the most important source of food in the world. Thousands of people throughout the world make a living through the fish industry. In some parts of the world, fish make up a large amount of the protein needed in the human diet. In other parts, such as America, men have learned that catching fish can be fun. Fishing is a great sport. Whatever your pleasure, fish play an important part in people’s lives today.

Fishing means different things to different people. To a Danish fisherman, it may mean a living. To an American sport fisherman (angler), it may mean fun on the end of a line. To a cook, it means food for the table. To an engineer, it means streamlined design. To a doctor, it may be help in controlling a disease of providing medicine. To you, it may mean hours spent on a river bank, an overnight camping trip, lots of fun, all kinds of questions, and even more.

Every year about one out of every three adults takes part in the sport of fishing. It is probably the most popular sport found in the world today. More than 50 million Americans enjoy fishing and spend time at many rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, and oceans.

What Fish Need To Live

Where there is water, you will most likely find fish. Most different kinds of fish are found in the oceans which make up about 70 percent or almost three-quarters of the world’s total area. Two out of every three species of fish are found in the ocean. Yet there are many fish that are found in fresh water, rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds. Fish are limited to certain kinds of water. Water, temperature, amount of silt (dirt), waste from factories and homes, and oxygen (what you breathe in from the air to live), are all important factors which tell whether a fish lives or dies.

Fish need oxygen the same as people. They have the ability to take oxygen out of water through organs called gills and use this oxygen so they may live. Therefore, gills are much like lungs that are found in people.

Water temperature plays an important role in oxygen holding ability. Trout need great amounts of oxygen to live. Cold water flowing down from mountain streams helps create a condition which will help the Trout live. Cold water can hold me oxygen while the action of rushing water over rocks also helps to put more into the water. Therefore, great amounts of oxygen are supplied and the Trout may survive and reproduce in cold, fast-moving water.

In some areas and man-made lakes, fishing is better than it ever has been because of scientific management. (Scientific management is the proper control of fish laws and conditions which might influence the natural life of fish. It is a way to protect fish.) However, such ideal areas are few and there are less chances for fishing because of cutting off of forest land, water pollution, the introduction of new types of fish that take up living space, and overfishing. These problems offer a number of challenges to young fishermen.

Club Exercise:

What is the water temperature of a stream near you? __________________________

______________________________

What kind of fish live in the stream? __________________________

______________________________

Does a stream near you have silt deposited during the year? __________________________

______________________________

Will this influence fish that live there? __________________________

Why? __________________________

______________________________

Why can’t trout live in most Ohio streams? __________________________

______________________________
How Some Fish Protect Themselves

Fish can protect themselves by many different ways. Fish in the open sea may use color and speed for protection. They may be blue-green on top and silver in color below. This coloring makes them hard to spot. Add speed to this color protection and it is easier for them to avoid being eaten by larger fish.

Fish that live on Ohio river bottoms are usually colored like the bottom. Can you give an example? Fish that live in seaweed or water plants also are colored for protection. Fish change colors so that they may blend in with their surroundings.

The bodies of many fish are covered by hard scales.

There are other ways by which fish may protect themselves. Some of these may be by armor, by poison spines (sharp projections) and even an electric shock.

Living Space

An acre of water, just like an acre of land, will produce only so much food and support only so many fish. Sometimes you may catch a fish that has a big head and a small body. Can you give a reason for such a condition in a small farm pond?

Explain

How Some Fish Feed

Many fish have teeth. Fish mouths and the kind of teeth they have vary, depending on what they eat.

Most fish eat other fish and creatures. Therefore, a typical fish is a flesh eater. These fish have large mouths and plenty of teeth. These teeth are not used for chewing like humans, but they are usually used to grab and hold food or to bite food off in chunks. The bristle-like teeth on many fish are needle sharp. Many fish you will see even have teeth located on their tongues. (Read What Fish Are Found in Ohio, page 13, to learn more about what kind of teeth certain types of fish have.)

List some fish you have caught that have teeth.

Do Catfish have teeth?

If so, what would they be used for?

Does a Pike have teeth?

Can you explain why the teeth are different in a Pike and a Catfish?

Some Fish Have No Teeth

Some members of your club this year will catch fish that have no teeth at all. Carp and Suckers are examples. They have small toothless mouths with thickened lips that stand out somewhat, and act like a vacuum cleaner. The Carp will swim along the bottom of a pond or river and sweep or draw in small animals, plants, or whatever might be found at the time.

Can you tell why there are so many Carp in certain rivers and streams throughout Ohio? (See section on Carp.)

Can you list some things Carp eat?

Carp can be fun to catch and put up quite a fight with light tackle. Maybe your club would like to go Carp fishing early some summer morning.

How Big Can A Fish Grow?

How Long Can A Fish Live?

Most fish continue to grow as long as they live. Some fish such as the Whale Shark may grow as long as 75 feet. Other fish may grow less than one inch. However, they usually continue to growing until they die. Most fish live a short life compared to man. A Guppy may live only a short time, while a Sturgeon may require 20 years to mature. The average life of many fresh water fish, such as Crappie, Rock Bass, and Yellow Perch, is about 10 years.
Parts of the Fish

Fish can be identified by many different ways. In order that you will learn to tell fish from one another, you will need to learn the parts of a fish. Learn the parts of the fish below and then when you reach the fish identification chart, notice how some fish are different from others.

PARTS OF A FISH

Lateral Line
Spiny Dorsal Fin
Soft Dorsal Fin

Eye
Nostrils

Scales

Upper Jaw

Lower Jaw

Gill Cover

Pectoral Fin

Pelvic Fin

Anal Fin

Caudal Fin

What kind of fish is in the picture above. (See picture on Sunfish.)

Can you name a fish that does not have scales?

How can you tell a Largemouth Bass from a Catfish?

Is a Walleye Pike really a Pike?

How big can a fish grow?

How long can a fish live?
How We Catch Fish

Down through the history of the world, people have caught fish by different ways. Those who depended upon fish as a main source of food and living used more sure ways to catch fish, such as traps, nets, bow-and-arrows, and even throw lines with hooks.

After a while, as people began to have more spare time and had food stored up for long periods, they began catching fish for recreation and fun. Today, fishing is one of the most popular sports in the world. It is a chance for everyone to get out of doors and enjoy the beauty of nature.

A common way to catch fish for young 4-H'ers is by using a cane pole and line. This is the easiest method for a beginner to learn. It requires the least amount of equipment. After a while and with some experience, you will want to progress to bait casting or spinning methods. Ask your 4-H advisor to explain cane pole fishing.

**Pole** — At least twice as long as the fisherman

**Line** — 12 pound test braided nylon about four feet shorter than the pole. Tie it to the tip of the pole and again about one foot from the tip.

**Bobber** — Cork or plastic, about the size of a quarter.

**Leader** — Tie three feet of 10 pound test monofilament to the end of the braided nylon line.

**Sinker** — One split shot four inches above the hook.

**Bait** — A worm or minnow on a long-shank number 6 hook fished near the bottom.
Bait Casting, Fly Fishing, and Spinning

There are several methods which are popular in catching fish for sport. All are similar because a line is wound up in a reel that is attached to a pole or rod. This method allows one to reach farther to where fish may be found and helps to sportingly land bigger fish than ever before possible, because of the flexible (bending) rod, and line moving out of the reel.

One method used in catching fish is bait casting. Bait casting rods (from 4 to 6 feet long) and reels are a very popular means of fishing in America. The bait, usually a plug or live bait, is cast to the water directly from the reel. It is drawn in by rewinding the line on the reel by hand.

Another method used is fly fishing. The fly rod is usually 7 to 9 feet long and very flexible. The bait is usually either an insect or a “fly” made to look like an insect. The line is stripped or pulled by hand from the fly rod reel. It is cast out to the water by whipping the long flexible rod back over the fisherman’s head and then down to the water. This takes a lot of practice.

Fly fishing is done most easily along open ponds, where there is no brush on the banks to snag the line. After the line is cast into the water, it is drawn in by winding it on the hand. The line can then be cast to the water again or rewound on the reel.
A third method of fishing, which is the most popular way, is the spinning method. This is in between the fly rod and bait casting methods. With this type of outfit, an angler can fish bait, cast spinners, artificial lures, and even dry fly fish.

Spinning is a fairly new method of fishing that was brought over from Europe. The spinning rod is a little longer than a bait casting rod, but shorter than a fly rod; it is usually 6 to 7 feet long. Unlike the fly reel or the casting reel, the spool of line remains stationary on the spinning reel, and when you cast the lure, the weight of it pulls the line from the end of the spool.

When a large fish is caught by this method, a drag will let the fish pull line off the spool and help tire the fish. This is one reason why “big” fish can be landed with light line on a spinning outfit.

List the types of methods you have used to catch fish.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Which method do you like best?

________________________________________________________________________

Why? (Explain)

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Most common types of natural baits that you will fish with in Ohio are worms, minnows, crayfish, grasshoppers, and other small insects or small animals that live near the water.

Artificial baits look like real bait and fool the fish. They include such things as plugs, spinning lures, spoons, and flies. You will learn more about artificial bait in more advanced outdoor adventurer 4-H projects.

What Fish Are Found In Ohio?

During your fishing project this year, you will catch many different types of fish. To help you learn more about what types of fish you catch, the following pictures and stories about fish will be of interest to you. We would like for you to read and fill out the following questions each time you catch a fish in a different family.

Fish are found in many different families, just as you and your parents make up a family. You will learn that in Ohio there are many different families of fish. You will catch fish found in different families this year and learn how to tell them apart.

What are the fishing seasons in Ohio? ____________________________________________

Why are there game laws? ______________________________________________________

Are game laws necessary? Why? ________________________________________________

What are the game laws in Ohio on fishing age? __________________________________

The Sunfish

In Ohio, you will find more Sunfish than any other family. Sunfish are located all over North America. There are about 25 different kinds of Sunfish which vary quite a bit in size from the Largemouth Bass down to the little Bluegill you may catch in a pond with a cane pole. Not all members of this family become large enough to eat, but Sunfish which are “pan” size are very tasty and would make quite a good meal for home. Some common fish in this family are Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, White and Black Crappie, and Bluegill. (See next page for pictures.)

The sunfish family has medium sized teeth that help them hold fish smaller than themselves. Can you tell the difference between a Largemouth Bass and a Smallmouth Bass? Explain:

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

All members of this family have three or more strong spines in the anal fin. Does a Bluegill have as many anal fin spines as a Bass?

Do you usually find Largemouth Bass and Bluegills together? Why?

List different kinds of Sunfish you catch this year.

___________________________________________________________________________
The Catfish

There are many different types of catfish found in Ohio. You will probably catch several different kinds this summer, especially if you go on an all-night fishing trip on rivers such as the Ohio, or larger lakes found in southern Ohio.

Some Catfish such as the Blue Catfish and Flathead grow to large sizes of over 100 pounds. Other Catfish that you will see, such as the Bullheads, will never reach much over two or three pounds in Ohio.

Catfish have many small teeth that are like sand paper. They are not too fussy over what they eat as you probably will find out. Catfish will eat worms, minnows, liver, or crayfish, dead or alive, or even decaying. Catfish usually locate their food by odor or taste through whiskers, or barbels, that are covered with taste buds. These hairlike whiskers dragged over the bottom will detect food for Mr. Catfish. Therefore, you can catch them when the waters are muddy, or at night when they feed most of the time, hidden from enemies.

When you catch a Catfish, be careful about those fins.

List different kinds of Catfish you catch this year.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Did you catch these Catfish with live or dead bait?

________________________________________________________________________

What kind of bait seems to catch more Catfish than others?

________________________________________________________________________

Is there a reason?

________________________________________________________________________

How can you tell a Channel Cat from a Black Bullhead?

________________________________________________________________________

The Pikes

Northern Pike and Muskellunge are sometimes called “tigers” of fresh water fish. These fish have needle sharp teeth that are used to catch and hold anything that might be smaller than themselves and can be eaten. They are fish eaters, but also may eat frogs, snakes, and birds.

Pike usually like to live around protected places, such as logs, brush piles, and water plants. When feeding, they like to go to deeper water or open areas.

Members of the Pike family vary a lot in size from a little Pickerel, which may reach only about 12-15 inches, to a Great Lakes Muskellunge, that may be over seven feet long and 100 pounds.
The Perches

Members of this family are widely known because they are good eating. All members of the family eat other fish or creatures. Minnows are usually the best bait to use when fishing for members of this family. Walleye Pike are really not Pike, but are a member of this Perch family.

Late in the fall or early spring is a good time to catch these fish in rivers such as the Ohio.

List different kinds of Perch you have caught this year.

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

What kind of bait did you use?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Could the fish you caught be eaten? ________ Why?

________________________________________________________________________

Why not? ____________________________

________________________________________________________________________

The Carps

Members of this family have no teeth at all. They have small toothless mouths which have thickened and protruded lips that act like a vacuum cleaner when they feed along the bottom of a stream, river, or pond. They have two feelers located on each side of their upper jaw. Carp have been raised in Asia and Europe for hundreds of years. They will grow up to 3 feet and weigh more than 50 pounds.

Large Carp are fun to catch on a hook and line with light tackle as well as sport for the bow-and-arrow or spear fisherman.

Carp reproduce their own kind very rapidly and seem to crowd out more desirable game fish. While feeding they also will work along the bottoms of streams or ponds and cause the water to become muddy. Fishermen using worms, fried potatoes,
corn, or doughballs, seem to have good luck in catching Carp at places where they know they feed.
Carp found in clean water may be good to eat.
Goldfish are in the carp family.
You or your club might like to go on a Carp fishing trip some early summer morning.

The Trouts
Trout are not found naturally in Southern Ohio because of pollution in streams and warm water. However, many pay lakes and state parks stock their waters during the winter and early spring and you may catch this beautiful and tasty fish.
A good spring club activity might be to go to a pay lake and fish for trout.

The Suckers
Suckers are closely related to the Carp family. Like the Carp, they have no teeth in the jaws, but do have teeth located in the throat. Suckers are important because they serve as food for other fishes. Sometimes male suckers develop bright colors such as red. You may see suckers in the early spring during their spawning runs upstream to lay eggs. Using worms, you may even accidentally catch suckers once in awhile when you are fishing for other fish.

How can you tell a sucker from a carp? ____________

Explain ____________

Could you suggest why you would not put Carp in a small pond? ____________

List the biggest Carp you catch this year. Length ____________ Weight ____________

How clean is the water where you fish for carp? ____________

Explain ____________
Let's Organize An Adventurer Club

You club members and advisors have by now had a chance to talk with parents, former members, and others about your club program. Each person has also had a chance to think about his own desires and interests and is ready to join the others in making some individual and group decisions. The following outline may be helpful for your Adventurer Club organization meeting.

Date ___________________ Hour ___________________ Place ___________________

Purpose: To promote cooperation by working together in organizing a club. To plan project work and activities. To plan your club program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MY PLAN FOR WHAT, HOW, AND WHO</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS FOR THE NEXT MEETING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Business</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular Order of Business</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Election of Officers—give officers their books</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assign officers to study books and be prepared to conduct the next meeting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning the club program—</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What do we want to include within our club meetings?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What local activities should we have such as tours, judging, demonstrations, picnics, achievement program?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To what extent should we participate in the county activities, such as picnics, tours, camps, exhibits?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Should we include health and safety work in our program, and how?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Should we engage in community service?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When and where shall we meet?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>What committees should we have and who should serve on them?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assign members to get ready to work with their projects. Next meeting might be a good meeting to talk about fishing gear as well as officer installation. Maybe a meeting on conservation would be good.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Include this as you plan the club programs for the year during the business session.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Active games and relays as planned by the recreation leaders.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Check with your County Extension Agent for suggested installation services.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A Visit From The County Game Protector

Purpose: To have the county game protector visit a club meeting and talk about fishing and hunting laws, exhibit some equipment and share thoughts with your Adventurer fishing club.
### Ohio Fish Identification Meeting

**Purpose:** Learn to identify ten or more species of fish that are found in Ohio.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Business</strong></td>
<td>Answer roll call by naming your favorite fish or a different fish.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project Work</strong></td>
<td>Fish identification:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Free fish identification sheets may be secured from:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ohio Department of Natural Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Division of Wildlife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1500 Dublin Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Columbus, Ohio 43215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Phone: 614-644-3925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>—or—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>360 East State Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Athens, Ohio 45701</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ask for publication 334, and fish identification sheets on common fish found in Ohio.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Educational and Service Programs</strong></td>
<td>Pin the part on the fish.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recreation and Social Activities</strong></td>
<td>Name the fish contest.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tell about your favorite fish.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ball games.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Overnight Campout And Fishing Trip

**Purpose:** To enjoy the fullness of outdoor group living and adventure by a camp-out.

**Suggested Equipment needed:**
1. Shelter (tent or some kind of covering).
2. Ground cloth. Material to be used between you and the ground.
3. Sleeping bag or two or more blankets.
4. Proper clothing for season and occasion.
5. Poncho or raincoat if you expect rain.
6. Insect repellent.
7. Flashlight and matches.
8. First aid kit.
9. Cooking utensils (one pot, one pan, plate, cup, fork, knife, and spoon.)
10. Water.
11. Food.

Don't forget your fishing equipment and bait.

Answer the following questions at the next 4-H Club meeting after the camp-out:
1. What were some camping problems? How will we improve our next camping trip?
2. Who was the best cook?
3. When was the best time for catching fish?
4. What kind of fish did we catch at night? Why?
5. List some things the club would like to try out on the next camp-out.
A Bait Hunt

Purpose: To learn about minnows and earthworms and secure bait for a club fishing trip.

Suggested Ideas

Catching bait or raising bait may be just as much fun and educational as fishing. There are many different types of baits to use and fish with, but only two types of activities are suggested here.

Catching Minnows

Equipment needed to catch minnows: Seine, minnow trap bucket, and wading shoes. Members of the club should go out to a small stream and seine for minnows or set bottled or wire traps.

Answer the following questions:
1. Where did you catch most of the minnows? Why?
2. What purpose do minnows serve?
3. What kind of minnows did you catch?
4. Are there streams close by which should have minnows but do not? Why?
5. How is the best way to keep captured minnows alive?

Nightcrawler Hunt

Equipment needed: dim flashlight, patience, bucket with dirt and coffee grounds.

Nightcrawlers are an excellent bait to use in catching many different types of fish in Ohio. After a spring or summer rain or when the ground is damp is a good time to go nightcrawler hunting at a known place where the worms can be found; usually an unplanted garden or shortly cut lawn are good places. Nightcrawlers are sensitive to strong light and may crawl into nearby holes very suddenly so grab them quickly. The coffee grounds provide food for the worms.

Ask the following questions:
1. How are worms beneficial?
2. What do you have to do to keep the worms alive and healthy?
3. Why do you see so many worms on the ground after a heavy rain?

Visit From County Agent Or Extension Staff

Purpose: To have 4-H Agent talk about all the opportunities in 4-H, about other projects, county fair, and camping.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MY PLAN FOR WHAT, HOW, AND WHO</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Work</td>
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<tr>
<td>Service Programs</td>
<td>County 4-H Agent Visit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recreation and Social Activities</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Biggest Fish Contest

Purpose: To measure, weigh, and determine the biggest and most fish caught by a club member during the year.

The biggest fish contest may be broken down into species of fish, biggest fish, most fish, or anything the club might decide upon for the year. Remember that most members may have opportunities and skill to catch big fish in several species. This activity may include several winners. Perhaps the whole club could be a winner. Club should offer some type of recognition.

Complete the following record concerning fish caught on fishing trips.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kind of Fish</th>
<th>Number Caught</th>
<th>Weight of Biggest Fish</th>
<th>Length of Fish</th>
<th>Average Weight of Catch</th>
<th>Average Length of Catch</th>
<th>Where Caught</th>
<th>Bait Used</th>
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</table>

What was the heaviest fish caught?

What was the longest fish caught?

What seemed to be the best bait for biggest fish?

What is the average weight and length of catfish you caught this year? Weight_____ Length_____ 

Fishing Stories And Tales

Purpose: To invite elderly anglers and members' parents to a meeting. Anglers will share fishing stories, exhibit gear and show pictures of fish caught through years of fishing experience.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business</th>
<th>MY PLAN FOR WHAT, HOW, AND WHO</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS FOR THE NEXT MEETING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stories and Tales Meeting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Recreation and Social Activities</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Day Time Fishing Trip

Purpose: To go on a day time fishing trip as a club activity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business</th>
<th>MY PLAN FOR WHAT, HOW, AND WHO</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS FOR THE NEXT MEETING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fishing Activity</td>
<td>Suggestions:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Go carp fishing.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Go fishing at a farm pond.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Go fishing at a pay lake.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Go fishing in nearby river or stream.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Educational and Service Programs</td>
<td>Casting contest. Who can cast the farthest?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation and Social Activities</td>
<td>Picnic.</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Outdoor cooking.</td>
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</table>

River Visit Or Fishing Trip

Purpose: To learn about rivers, fish that live in rivers, and problems that face us in keeping our rivers clean. Suggested activity would be to go to a river for an all day fishing trip. Answer the following questions about the river where you visited.

Name five common river fish:

1. __________________________  3. __________________________  5. __________________________
2. __________________________  4. __________________________

List some of the litter and pollution problems you saw at the river where you visited.

_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________

Does this affect wildlife and fish that live there? ______ How? __________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________

Can you eat the fish out of the river where you visited? ______ Why? __________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________

Why not? ______________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________

What are the names of some of the smaller streams that feed into the river where you visited? __________
Stream Pollution Hunt

Purpose: To become aware of pollution problems near home and decide what you or the club can do about these problems.

Stream Pollution

"Of silts and sands, chemicals and cans, tires and toys and socks of boys." Is that what your favorite stream is made of, and where your fish friends live? Virtually every stream, river, lake, and pond in the country is polluted to some degree.

Does this affect wildlife and fish that live there? If streams are given a chance they tend to purify themselves but sometimes they stink, kill fish, and look terrible. Is your stream a dream or a nightmare? What do you find along the streams on in them that says, "Look, I am polluted."

What 4-H Members, Club or Families Can Do as Exercise:

Follow a stream for a mile and list the litter and pollution problems you find—decide what you can do about it—then do it!

Make sure you and your family don’t contribute to stream pollution—never use streams for dumping cans, old tires, trash, or dead animals.

When hiking or walking along a stream, take along a container for your own litter and do a little "clean-up" along the way.

Club Project for Year on Conservation:

Adopt a stream—clean it up and keep it clean.

When a stream is used by the public, provide trash cans for depositing litter; provide for emptying the cans.

Take a walking trip with a Soil Conservation Technician and learn how farmers can reduce the amount of silt going into streams.

Conduct a "pollution items" treasure hunt contest. Set up your own rules first.

Water Safety

Purpose: To learn more about safety.

Without too much thought, every one of us can recall a serious accident that occurred to one of our friends or relatives. It isn't fun to be hurt. Club members with broken arms or legs can't play ball or go swimming. Our parents must pay the costly doctor and hospital bills. An effective safety program may help prevent many accidents.

What could your club emphasize at meetings?

Areas needing attention include:

a. water safety
b. boat safety
c. swimming safety
d. farm pond and pool safety
e. mouth-to-mouth resuscitation
f. why swimming skills are important
g. how to float
h. lawn mower safety

Where can you get help with program?

a. Fire chief or other firemen
b. Civil Defense
c. Red Cross
d. County Department of Health
e. Highway Patrol, sheriff, or police
f. Nurses and doctors
h. Club members’ parents.

For additional help, ask county 4-H agent about 4-H club safety material.
I pledge
My Head to clearer thinking,
My Heart to greater loyalty,
My Hands to larger service and
My Health to better living, for
My Club, my Community, My Country
and My World.