

# Certified Angling Instructor



## What Is a Certified Angling Instructor (CAI)?

- Official BSA certification for fishing and fly-fishing programs and merit badge instructors
- Train the trainer position
- One who leads and executes fishing programs at the council level
- Fishing program advocate and resource for Cub Scout, Scouts BSA, and Venturing units
- Develop and support council fishing programs
- Qualified for national fishing staff positions at Jamborees, Order of the Arrow conferences, and help train fishing staffs at all four BSA high-adventure bases

Scouters who successfully complete the Certified Angler Instructor Course or the CAI Course are eligible to earn the recognition patches and will be assigned a CAI number and receive a CAI certificate.

# Why We Offer CAI Training

## Strengthen Your Council's Fishing Lineup with the CAI Program

To help councils understand the great opportunity that fishing offers for recruitment and retention, it takes a local champion. That is what the Certified Angler Instructor (CAI) program is all about! Trained champions can promote the need for a good fishery and recruit more CAIs and qualified merit badge counselors for the Fishing, Fly-fishing, and Fish and Wildlife merit badges within a council. It is recommended that each Council have a fishing committee where these fishing advocates can create excitement about fishing.

Surveys tell us that fishing with Scouts is very popular and the goals of fishing can be achieved with minimal staff and minimal program expenses. Many BSA camps may not be offering a focused fishing emphasis or have an adequate fishery or well-managed lakes/ponds to attract Scouts. One of the goals of the CAI program is to help councils recognize and address this need.

Our objective for a quality fishery is for a Scout to have a reasonable chance to catch a fish within 30 minutes. Ideally, a smaller pond—two to five acres—and well-stocked with panfish like bluegill, trout, or perch is better than a large lake with a few large bass or muskies and multiple species that would appeal to adults. A quantity of fish with easy accessibility is best to get Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA members interested, provide great enjoyment in fishing, and help deliver more opportunities for merit badge completion.

Councils that have endorsed the CAI program are delivering great success with their fishing programs. These programs help promote retention and recruitment for all levels of Scouting.

We now have just under 700 CAIs across the U.S., and they are making a great impact. The Ideal ratio would be one CAI per 1,000 Scouts, so we have room for growth! Looking at it another way, a council with 15,000 youth should have 15 CAIs. Think what an impact a fishing committee of 15 CAIs could have delivering quality council fishing programs to Scouts!

## Course Goals

- Qualify to become a Certified Angling Instructor by attending a qualified CAI course.
- Gain hands-on learning of fly-casting, fly-tying, fishing knots, finding fish, and etiquette—and how to teach these same skills.
- Catch a fish or two and demonstrate catch-and-release. Clean and cook a fish.
- Participate in discussions about other councils' fishing committees and programs.

- Receive and UTILIZE booklets containing Merit Badge Counselor Guides for the Fishing, Fly-Fishing, and Fish and Wildlife Management merit badges.
- Learn about the Complete Angler Award for Scouts in your council.
- Commit to making fishing a priority within your council.
- Organizing a fishing committee in your council.