Wisconsin is a great state to fish! Dive into our many lakes and streams for fishing adventures. Please remember to bring a grown-up with you.
Greetings Parents, Teachers, and Youth Leaders!

Wisconsin offers a playground of natural wonders. Our lakes, rivers, and streams appeal to the sense of wonder in kids of all ages. They beckon us to explore what lies beneath the surface and along the water’s edge.

Here’s a recipe for an adventure that can lead to a lifetime of happy memories: Start with that sense of wonder, sprinkle it with water from a Wisconsin lake or stream, and add a fishing pole. Your presence and encouragement will help nurture a healthy relationship with our natural resources and set the stage for lifelong learning.

This booklet can be used with the children in your lives in a variety of ways. Use it at day camp, in the classroom, in a clubhouse, or on your own with your family. The Department of Natural Resources offers many programs and materials designed to coax young people outdoors and safely guide their explorations. To learn more, check out our Web site at dnr.wi.gov

Happy Fishing!

Mike Staggs
Director, Bureau of Fisheries Management

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Let’s go fishing!

Draw a picture of what these people need to go fishing.

Answers: Fishing pole, hook, line, sinker, bait, bobber, hat, life preserver, buddy, and drinking water.
Tie a knot — it’s easy!

with a clinch knot

1.

2.

3.

or try the palomar knot

1.

2.

3.

4.
Cast-a-way!

Cast safely,

Always look around you to make sure no one is close enough to get hooked. Push the button on your reel and hold it down.

Bring the rod straight up over your shoulder. Use your wrist, not your whole arm. Bring the rod forward and release the button.

Turn the crank forward until it clicks and reel in the slack.

Catch,

When a fish bites, jerk the line quickly to “set” the hook in the fish’s mouth.

And release?

Is the fish big enough to keep? Are you and your family going to eat it? If not, gently slip it back into the water as quickly as you can.
Where to find bait:

In the garden:

- Doughballs
- Flake cereal or bread
- Water
- Honey

Dampen cereal or bread with water and honey. Press into tight little balls, then onto hook. Take off your bobber and use a big split-shot to catch a carp!

Cheesy Oats

- 8 ounces of processed cheese
- 4 ounces garlic powder
- 1 package plain, instant oatmeal
- 2 tsp. coffee whitener

Mix together and knead well. Refrigerate until ready to use.

At the bait shop:

Don't dump your bait!
It can spread disease and invasive species.

An "invasive species" is a plant or animal that doesn't belong and can cause problems.
A rainbow of fish!

Many kinds of fish live in Wisconsin. Some have colorful names. Color the a) blue gill, b) yellow perch, c) rainbow trout, d) black crappie, and e) brown bullhead.
What eats fish?

Many animals depend on fish for food. Together, they make up a food chain. Circle the ones that eat fish and cross out the ones that don’t. Draw lines between certain animals to make a food chain.

Answers: Raccoons, bears, muskellunge, eagles, frogs, otters, herons, and humans all eat fish. Large muskellunge will eat frogs and baby raccoons. Humans, all eat fish. Large muskellunge will eat frogs and baby raccoons. Raccoons, bears, muskellunge, eagles, frogs, otters, herons, and humans all eat fish.
I’m fishing, now!

Check off your skills

I have:
- rigged my own pole.
- tied a knot.
- baited a hook.

I can:
- cast safely.
- reel properly.

I know:
- at least three different kinds of fish that live in Wisconsin.
- three animals that eat fish.
- three things important for fish to survive.
- two reasons why wetlands are important to fish and wildlife.
- what I can do to protect fish habitat.

I always:
- wear a life jacket around deep or swift water.
- fish with a buddy and tell an adult where we are going.
- am careful with hooks.

Congratulations! You’ve earned the right to proudly wear this badge.
Fish Mobile

Put it together and hang it in your room!

1. Cut out the fish and aquatic life on the next page using the dashed lines as a guide.
2. Cut off the lake scenes on this page on the dashed line. Fold in half along the solid line. Punch out hole in the center on top.
3. Cut three pieces of thread or fishing line; one about 12” long, one 14” long and one 16” long.
4. Tape the ends of the thread to the lake scene and tape the fish to the thread at different heights, so they will not touch each other when hanging. See diagram below.
5. Tie a short piece of thread through the top hole and hang the fish mobile in your room.
Where do fish live?
Fish need clean water and places to rest, hide, and lay eggs. And, they need plenty to eat! Good habitat meets all these needs.
Wetlands - a squishy place to call home.

Wetlands are important places for fish and wildlife. People depend on wetlands, too. They soak up rainwater and snowmelt, preventing floods. Wetlands also filter water as it seeps through on its way to lakes and streams.
Hazards to Wetlands

In springtime, northern pike swim into wetlands to lay their eggs. Not all northern pike will find good wetland habitat, however. Follow the maze to learn how wetlands, and the fish that depend on them, need our help.

Paradise Lake

Storm Bounce
Floodwater carried eggs and small fish into poor habitat and left them stranded there when it retreated.

Dam
Fish are blocked from moving into wetlands.

Farm Run-off
Rain and snowmelt ran across lawns and farm fields carrying dirt that covered up eggs.

Wetland Drained
Fish are left high and dry.
Your friend —

A conservation warden is your friend. He or she enforces rules that protect our fish, water, wildlife, forests, air, and land from damage. If you see a problem involving natural resources, call your conservation warden or call the TIP (Turn In Poachers) Hotline: 1-800-TIP-WDNR (1-800-847-9367). General information is not provided at this number.

You can find out who your warden is by calling your local DNR office or 608/266-2141.

The Conservation Warden for my area is: ________________________________.
Telephone number: ___________________________.
Be a good sport!

Many people use our lakes, rivers and streams in many different ways. What could these people do to make the outdoors more enjoyable for everyone? Share the resource.
Which lake would you like to visit?

This is a favorite campsite for many visitors to Sunset Lake.

Last weekend, the Trasher family stayed here.

How would you feel if you were the next camper to visit this area.

Circle the things that bother you about this scene.

What could the Trashers have done to take better care of Sunset Lake?

What could you do to make this a better place to visit?

Circle the damage that can’t be fixed in this picture.
I caught one!

Angler’s Name ........................................................................................................
Type of Fish (Species) ..............................................................................................
Length .................................................... Weight ....................................................
Date .......................................................................................................................
Place .......................................................................................................................
Bait ........................................................................................................................

Place photo or draw picture in the box above.
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

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