

Fishing Director

Overview

Fishing is a unique activity at camp in that it is a slow paced, relaxing activity where kids can sit quietly for a period and be at one with nature. There is no running around and no major strength or athleticism is required. Fishing is a simple, peaceful and fun activity for boys and girls of all ages. Whether it's sitting at the bottom of the slope or taking the fishing barge out around the lake to see where the fish are hanging out on a particular day, the activity is sure to amuse the youngest to the very oldest campers.

Daily Tasks

Before the beginning of the day, ensure that the barge is full of gas, lifejackets, worms, rods, line, hooks, and anything else that you will need for the adventures of the day ahead. Equipment can easily become tangled and is quite fragile, so take the time to go through each rod at the start and end of each day. As well, there is only a limited amount of worm cartons at camp at any given time so try not to use too many each day. But when we're running low, be sure to let the office know so we can get more ASAP.

As Fishing does takes place in central part of camp it is important to make sure that the slope is clean at the end of each day as it is often used for evening programs and/or twilight activities. Be sure to check both the bottom of the slope as well as underneath the slope stairs as things can often fall underneath and easily get lost.

At the end of each day, make sure you put away all equipment, return the worms to the office fridge and lock the fishing shed – kids and staff may try to get in there either on their free time or even for evening programming props! (you'll understand at camp...)

Programming

Fishing at Tamakwa mostly consists of drop and cast fishing, more advanced fishers can learn skilled casting and could also be taught how to rig lines and take off fish; however, for the most part, fishing does not get more advanced than this due to the limitations of our equipment and lake. Given this, think of different things you can do throughout the summer such as cookouts, early morning and evening special fishing time, barge rides, story telling or teaching kids about the different variety of fish and what they may look like. If you have any illustrated fish books that you'd like to bring up, this could be a great rainy day activity.

While fishing is a great activity to unwind, relax and have fun, it also requires a great deal of patience. The majority of your campers will be the youngest kids in camp so be patient with them and help them to get set up and ready to fish as quickly as possible.

At different times throughout the summer you may be asked by the program director to hold a twilight program for our JTs – this is usually a 20-30 minute period after dinner and before evening program. You are open to decide whether you would prefer to fish on the slope, go on a barge ride or even tell fish stories during this period.

Awards

As previously mentioned, the majority of campers will fish on the same level however there are some areas where kids can improve technique and learn more advanced fishing tools. For beginners, focus on teaching knots (improved clinch, snell and end loop), review the parts and functions of the equipment and how to keep them in good working order.

For intermediate and advanced fishers, quiz campers on knots and have them set up their own poles. Make more advanced lures and start teaching them how to find the fish and explain the different variety of fish and where they may be found.

For all levels, remember that personal experience can be a great asset to your program so illustrate different techniques or tricks that you may have learned during your own fishing adventures.

Staff

Fishing will likely have one additional staff member each day to help set up and supervise kids. Utilize your staff to help get the kids organized, as they will require help with the worms and rods.

Safety

While we always encourage campers and staff to have fun at everything they do, safety is paramount. Fishing is a quiet and peaceful activity however it can be dangerous as kids cast rods into the water with sharp hooks. ALWAYS teach kids the proper technique for holding and casting - the only thing that should ever catch onto a hook is a big fish!

Summary

We know this is a lot of information. We do not expect you to memorize all of it. We do expect you to read it, take notes, and ask questions! We hope you are as excited as we are to have you with us on South Tea!

FISHING

- Campers may **ONLY** use the equipment with a staff member's permission
- Campers must wear fastened lifejackets when traveling on the fishing barge
- Campers must sit at the bottom of the Slope upon their arrival
- Campers must wait to receive a rod from a staff member
- Fishing rods must be carried with both hands
- Use worms that are halved as bait
- This is not a swim area
- Casting is allowed only with proper supervision and must be done very carefully
- Shoes must be worn at all time
- Look before you cast
- Reel back all the way before casting
- Hold rod vertically in air and reeled up all the way when walking

BARGE RULES

- Max capacity is 10- 8 campers plus 1 driver plus 1 crew
- Must bring radio
- Lifejackets must be worn at all times by campers and staff