

# 6. Angling Clinic Experience

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## About the Angling Clinic Experience

At the Angling Clinic Experience, students learn about water safety, fish biology, angling skills, and angling equipment. The Angling Clinic Experience is a day-long field trip to a local pond. The clinic combines hands-on learning activities, games, teaching stations, demonstrations, and an opportunity for students to fish. Classrooms enrolled in Kokanee Karnival at the Comprehensive Level are required to participate in the Angling Clinic Experience as part of their acceptance agreement. The Angling Clinic Experience consists of the following four stations:

- 1. Fish Biology: Care of the Catch** – Using a variety of visual aids, such as a model fabric fish, mounted fish specimens, a wooden fish puzzle, and posters, students learn about fish anatomy and how to safely care for fish they catch, whether they plan to keep or release the fish.
- 2. Casting and Water Safety** – Students learn about hypothermia, the importance of wearing a life jacket, staying safe in or near water, rescue methods, dressing for the outdoors, ensuring water is safe to drink, and removing a hook safely. Students also practice casting using a closed-face spinning reel and rod to cast for plastic “lawn” bass.
- 3. Knots** – Students learn to tie the improved clinch knot, surgeon’s end loop, and surgeon’s knot and when to use each type of knot.
- 4. Fishing Tackle and Methods** – Using an assortment of fresh and saltwater lures, flies, bait, tackle, and assorted equipment as props, students learn about the basic gear used for different types of fishing. Students have an opportunity to practice casting with a fly rod and reel.



Besides the four stations, the following displays are available:

- Photos from the Streamside and Hatchery Experiences
- Thank You recognition board for Kokanee Karnival “Spawnsors”
- Three-tiered aquarium (Supplied by the Deschutes National Forest, the aquarium allows students to view fish and aquatic insects up close.)

At the beginning of the Angling Clinic Experience, students play Hooks and Ladders,<sup>+</sup> a game that helps students learn about the dangers salmon face throughout their life cycle. For a description of Hooks and Ladders, see the **Appendices**.

At each station, one or more trained volunteers follow a prepared script that engages students and involves them in learning activities. For sample scripts used at each station, see **Chapter 9. Scripts**. Students spend exactly **25 minutes** at each station.

After lunch, most students try to catch a fish using equipment provided by the ODFW Angler Education Program. Volunteers prepare gear, provide sideline coaching, untangle lines, and share the excitement of a “first fish.” Some students also practice fly tying and lure making.



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The Angling Clinic Experience is held the last week in April, at Aspen Hall in Shevlin Park, Bend, OR. Stations are set up outdoors (inside if the weather is inclement). Two schools participate each day, with a total of eight schools experiencing this field trip over a four-day period. The Sunriver Anglers (SRA) purchase, prepare, and serve lunch for volunteers and students. Kokanee Karnival reimburses SRA for all expenses.

Students may keep up to two fish, or they may release all fish they catch and continue fishing until it's time to leave. Plastic bags are available for cleaned fish, and schools bring coolers with ice to transport fish.

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## Preparing for the Angling Clinic Experience

To prepare for the Angling Clinic Experience:

- Locate a site suitable for the clinic. Consider a site with indoor and outdoor facilities, restrooms, safe access to water's

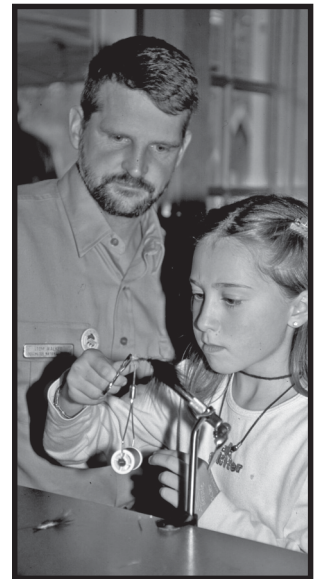
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<sup>+</sup>Project Wild Aquatic Education Activity Guide, Revised Edition© 1992, the Council for Environmental Education, p. 76.

- edge, large area for buses to turn around, and ample parking for volunteers. If necessary, reserve the site in advance.
- Notify each school of the date and time you expect them to arrive. Prepare and distribute a daily schedule of events. Remind teachers to divide their classes into two groups before arriving; have one parent volunteer available for every six students; bring a cooler with ice (if students want to keep fish they catch); and have students bring extra clothing, insect repellent, sunglasses (to protect eyes while fishing), and sunblock.
  - Obtain commitments from an adequate number of volunteers to conduct activities at each station. Remind volunteers of the day and time they are expected to arrive.
  - Ensure that all equipment is available, in good working order, and on-site for the day's activities. Replenish expendable supplies, such as gumballs for Hooks and Ladders.
  - If necessary, make arrangements for volunteer carpools, lunches for volunteers, beverages or bottled water for students, and portable toilets.

## Schedule – Angling Clinic Experience

- 8:00 Volunteers arrive and set up the four stations, displays, “welcome table,” Kokanee Karnival banner, and Kokanee Karnival sign at the entrance to the event. All volunteers sign their name and record their hours worked and miles driven on the Volunteer Record form at the “welcome table.”
- 9:00 As students arrive, they are seated at tables in the dining room facility.
- 9:10 Welcome students, explain the process and expectations, including safety considerations, and how they will rotate to each station. Divide students into four groups.
- 9:30 Ask students, teachers, and volunteers to gather outside to play Hooks and Ladders. A volunteer explains the game and assigns roles; students play the game and discuss the results.



10:00	Announce a 5-minute break
10:05	Sound the duck call and ask students to walk to their first station.
10:30	Sound the duck call and ask students to walk to their second station.
10:55	Announce a 10-minute break.
11:05	Sound the duck call and ask students to walk to their third station.
11:30	Sound the duck call and ask students to walk to their fourth station.
11:55	Sound the duck call and break for lunch.
12:30	Students may participate in the optional angling or fly-tying and lure-making activities.
2:00	Students depart.

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If a class arrives late, adjust the schedule accordingly: play Hooks and Ladders once, instead of twice; shorten the lunch break; or reduce the amount of angling time in the afternoon. Avoid reducing the amount of time spent at each station.

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## Equipment, Props, Teaching Tools

To conduct the Angling Clinic Experience, consider the following items:

- Clinic Location – Use a location that is easily accessible to volunteers, students, and teachers. The site must have an adequate size pond where students may safely fish, a play area (100 feet X 50 feet) to accommodate the Hooks and Ladders game, space for the four stations, restroom facilities, and ample parking space for buses and volunteers.
- Scripts – For sample scripts used at each station, see **Chapter 9. Scripts**.
- Volunteers – At least two volunteers are needed for each station. In addition, you will need one volunteer to remain

at the “welcome table,” two volunteers to manage rod and reel maintenance, one volunteer coach for every four students to help students with angling in the afternoon, and two volunteers to help with fly-tying and lure-making activities.

- Identification banners – one for each station
- Name badges and Volunteer Record Form – Volunteers should wear name badges and record hours worked and miles driven.

### Welcome Table

- Miscellaneous office supplies and Volunteer Record Form

### Displays

- Thank You Recognition Board for Kokanee Karnival  
“Spawnsors,” photos from the Streamside and Hatchery Experiences, three-tiered aquarium

### Hooks and Ladders

- Rope for turbines, tape or rope to mark boundaries, gumballs (represent food tokens), bear T-shirts

### Fish Biology

- Fabric model fish, wooden fish puzzles (The ODFW supplies posters and other visual aids.)

### Casting and Water Safety

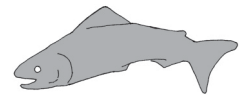
- Assorted types/styles of life jackets, boat cushion, two 5-gallon plastic buckets, two towels, paddle, rope, one orange, debarbed hook, 15-inch length of fishing line tied into a loop, closed face spinning rods and reels (at least 15), plastic bass for “lawn bass”

### Knots

- 20-inch lengths of clothesline and nylon rope, at least 15 of each

### Fishing Tackle and Methods

- Spinning, spincasting, baitcasting, and fly-fishing rod and reel; assortment of hooks, lures, flies, and bait; assortment of all types of fishing gear



Substitute level wind or spinning reels and hula hoops for closed face spinning reels and “lawn bass,” if unavailable.



## Angling pond

- Closed face spinning rods and reels (allow two rods/student), bait, polaroid camera for “first fish” photo, “first fish” certificates For an example of the First Fish certificate, see the **Appendices**.

## Summary – Angling Clinic Experience



**When:** Last week in April, four consecutive days, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

**Where:** Aspen Hall at Shevlin Park, Bend, OR

**Who:** Classrooms enrolled at the Comprehensive Level are required to participate in the Angling Clinic.

### Things to Do in Advance:

- Reserve Aspen Hall at Shevlin Park **one year in advance**. Arrange to pick up keys.
- Notify ODFW-STEP Biologist of date and time of clinic; remind ODFW personnel, **well in advance** of the event, to stock the pond.
- Reserve curtain room dividers for separating groups indoors and arrange for delivery to Shevlin Park.
- Contact President of Sunriver Anglers to coordinate preparation of lunches.
- Notify Fish Biologist at Deschutes National Forest of date and time of clinic.
- The Kokanee Karnival pays the school district for the cost of transportation to the Angling Clinic Experience. To ensure that classrooms have use of a bus for the **entire** day, get commitments from school superintendents and transportation heads **well in advance**.
- On day of the Angling Clinic Experience, make sure the fish screen is across the end of the pond. (It is usually always in place.)