



Go Fishing!

Summer is a great time to go fishing. You don't need a bunch of fancy equipment, just six simple things...

What You Need:

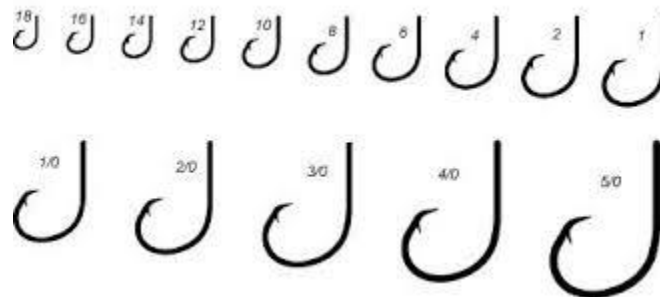
1. **Bait** – fish like all sorts of bugs and plant seeds.

Go dig up some garden **worms** and carry them in a small plastic container that has some semi rotted leaves and a couple drops of water bedding. Keep container out of direct sunlight.

Catch **grasshoppers** by stunning them with a fly swatter. Keep them in a plastic jar with a lid. The grasshoppers will revive and want to escape. When taking one out for bait be careful they don't all escape, but that's part of the fun.

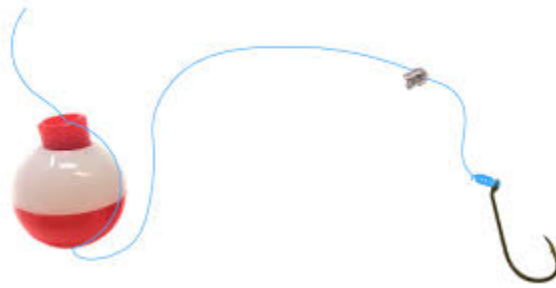
Canned **corn** is a great bait. Unfortunately, canned corn does not naturally exist in nature. You will have to get this from a shop. Don't forget the can opener. Extra corn can be frozen and saved for the next trip.

2. **Hook** – There are many types of hooks to choose from at your local shop. If your bait is small, use a small hook. If your bait is big, use a big hook. A #8 is a good place to start. Try to use a Circle Hook, as they are designed to hook the fish by the lip and not the gut like a baitholder hook tends to do. Whatever hook you choose, it's a good idea to pinch flat the hook barb, not just so you can release the fish easier, but just in case someone gets hooked.



3. **Weight** - Place a small non-lead weight about a foot under the float. A removable 3/0 split shot or two will do the job. Best advise is to add enough weight to sink the float by half or more.
4. **Float** – Most people call them bobbers. The float is used to tell you when the fish bites. A ¾ inch or 1-inch bobber will work. The idea here is to have an indicator that has enough buoyancy to hold up your fishing rig, but

not cause a lot of resistance from up top when a fish takes your bait. Look at the Trout Magnet EZ floats. They are just the right size for what we are doing.



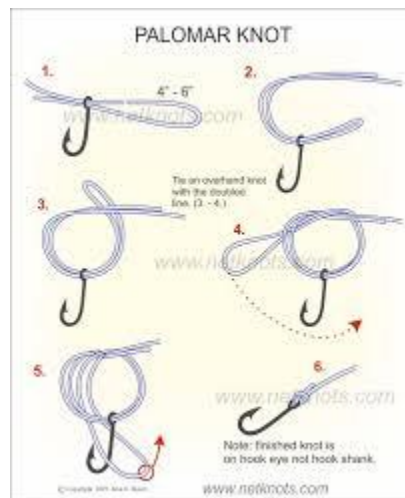
1/4 Piece of Worm + #8 Baitholder Hook + 3/0 Removable Split Shot Sinker + 1" Clip-On Bobber

- 5 **Line**- Basic monofilament fishing line works best, but you can use string or twine. Look for something in the 4 to 8-pound range. You will need a length two foot longer than your pole.
- 6 **Pole** – If you don't have a commercial fishing rod, you can make a simple fishing pole out of a tree sapling or piece of bamboo. Six to eight feet long, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch bottom and $\frac{1}{4}$ top diameter will do. It can be longer or shorter as needed. Only harvest poles from your property or with permission of a neighbor or friend on their land. Choose a pole that is springy and not rotten and cut the top where the diameter is about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch. Remove bark and the side branches, sand smooth. Just remove the side stems on bamboo.

Putting Your Pole Together:

Build your fishing pole by adding the pieces.

- a. Tie the line to the narrow top of the prepared pole. You can drill a hole here or just tie directly around the pole.
- b. Run the string down the length of the pole and two feet longer. Cut the string.
- c. Tie the hook to the line with the Palomar knot



- d. Place the float on the line about a foot above the hook.
- e. Place the weight on the line about six inches below the float.

Now, hold the pole in one hand and the hook in the other. From the top, rotate the pole so the string starts wrapping around the pole. Make the wraps so wraps descend the pole. Place the hook into the bottom of the pole when you are out of line. This is how you store the rod and rig. Reverse to use.

Go out and catch some bait, then hit the water...

Casting:

1. Unwrap you rig from the pole and bait your hook.
2. Hold the rod in your casting hand and the line just above the hook in your other hand.
3. Lower the tip of the rod towards the water.
4. Swiftly lift the tip of the rod up and when the rod tip is almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way up, let go of the string.
5. Keep lifting and let the string pendulum under the rod and out towards the water.
6. Lower the rod tip after the string passes the half-way mark and follow through.

Lift, Swing, Down... No Overhead Casting!!!

With practice, your line will swing nicely out into the water at full length. Keep an eye on the float. When it disappears underwater, lift the rod, and bring the fish to shore. You may have to take a few steps backwards to bring the fish in. use a pair of pliers or hemostats to remove the hook.

Okay, I know I said you only need six things to go fishing, but you really only need 5. Do you need a pole? No. You could just fish with the line rig. This is called a handline. Just toss the rig into the water. Why not give it a try?

Further Thoughts:

Please follow all state fishing rules and regulations for where you will fish. This includes purchasing a fishing license for anyone fishing that is sixteen years old or older. Any adult handling fishing gear at a fishing area needs to possess a fishing license, even if you are just helping your scout. License fees go to the state to help fund the conservation of state resources. Remind the scout to be cautious around water. Always use the buddy system. Scout with scout, Scout with sibling, Scout with parent, Scout with relative.

When you go near water, recite the *Scout Water Safety Chant*:

“S” is for Someone’s Watching. Never swim alone.

“C” is Check the rules. Know where you can roam.

“O” is Only Buddies should go from shore.

“U” is know what “U” can do. Don’t do any more.

“T” is Tell a grown-up if someone’s in need.

“SCOUT” shows safety. Now you take the lead...

In addition to your state and local fishing laws, there are also some “good neighbor” rules that are important for Scouts to follow. **Please read and discuss...**

1. Always ask permission before fishing on another person’s property. (A Scout is courteous.)
2. Always leave the area cleaner than you found it. (A Scout is clean.)
3. Always let others know where you are going and when you will be back. (A Scout is trustworthy.)
4. Do not intrude on a spot where others are already fishing. (A Scout is friendly.)
5. Do not fish in a swimming area. This prevents hooks from being lost in a place where others are walking. (A Scout is courteous.)
6. Decide with your parents if you should wear a life jacket while fishing. (A Scout is obedient.)
7. Know what the weather forecast is before you go fishing and watch the weather while you fish.
8. Never fish while lightning is striking or there is a possibility of flooding. (Be Prepared.)

Enjoy yourselves and please share you fishing adventure pictures on the Washington Crossing Forum Facebook page.