



The BSA's Complete Angler Recognition 2014

The Complete Angler Recognition was established by the BSA National Fishing Task Force in October 2014 for the purpose of providing and recognizing a well-rounded youth angler within the Boy Scouts of America. Scouts who have earned the three fishing-related merit badges—Fishing, Fly-Fishing, and Fish and Wildlife Management—can be recognized as a BSA Complete Angler. The patch is pictured above and is being produced by BSA Supply for distribution.

THREE FISHING-RELATED MERIT BADGES

The **Fishing merit badge** (Angler merit badge) was one of the original 57 badges. Just over 2 million Scouts have earned the Angling or Fishing merit badge. In a recent *Boys' Life* survey, fishing placed fourth as the preferred outdoor activity within Scouts units, surpassed only by camping, swimming, and bicycling. More Americans fish than play golf and tennis combined. Most recently, a BSA report identified Scouts' favorite activities while camping. Fishing ranked third, led only by hiking and outdoor cooking.

The **Fly-Fishing merit badge** is the newest angling badge, introduced in 2002, and has had special interest and attention by our national outdoor program. Major efforts to present this skill were made at the last three the national Scout jamborees with great success. It has become the major emphasis of the Certified Angler Instructor's certification program. In 2012, 65,000 Fishing and Fly-Fishing merit badges were earned, a 48 percent increase over 2011.

The last of the triad is **Fish and Wildlife Management**, which was originally called Wildlife Management when it was introduced in 1972. Of the three merit badges, Fish and Wildlife Management is the most challenging to obtain because of the conservation projects required. The purpose of the Fish and Wildlife Management merit badge is to encourage learning about healthy fish and wildlife populations, while preventing lost population and increasing additional extension of plants and animals.