



What to Expect at our Fishing Clinic

The purpose of our fishing clinic is to bring awareness to the conservation aspect of fishing as well as knowledge about aquatic environments and the fish species that live in them. The clinic will consist of four stations to introduce you to conservation principles, basic equipment and skills required to fish including knots, tackle, casting, baiting, and catch and release. Education regarding fish species and habitats found in Big Thicket National Preserve will also be included.

You will proceed through four stations. At the final station, you will try out actual fishing!

Station 1 Registration and Conservation

Here you will be introduced to Leave No Trace Principles and Marine Pollution. You will receive a checklist to move through the stations in order to receive a Jr. Ranger Angler Badge when you complete all four stations.



Station 2 Fishing Equipment and Knot Tying

You will learn and practice how to attach a bobber and a sinker to your fishing line. Using larger practice rope, you will also learn and practice how to tie a Palomar knot to attach a hook to your fishing line.



Station 3 Habitat, Species Identification, and Casting

First, you will learn about freshwater fish habitat, then practice casting with our hook-free rods and reels. Our practice game will allow you to catch plastic fish with illustrations of local fish species on the bottom. Then you can match the fish to our species identification board to learn more about fish in the Big Thicket National Preserve.



Station 4 Try it Out!

You are ready to fish! We will provide lifejackets for anyone 12 and under (required) or those over 12 who would like one. You can help us bait a hook and carefully approach the water, look around before you cast, and then cast your line into the water. If you catch a fish, rangers will be on hand to assist you to identify, remove the hook, and release the fish back into the water.

