



Art of the Fly

Fly Fishing Camp

Explore the basics of fly fishing by learning the art, science and skills required to catch the various species of trout found in the streams and lake of the Bighorns. Study the hatch, learn to read the water, tie flies, master casting techniques, and practice knot tying to prepare for fishing in the mountains.

- **Day One (1.5 hrs): Intro to Fly Fishing**

- Getting to know how a fly rod works and what goes into its set up is the first technical skill for new fly fishermen. We'll start with an overview of the basic types of fly rods, lines, and reels.
- Once campers have a good understanding of their fly rod we will practice the basic roll cast. Campers will also explore the mechanics of the fly rod and how to manipulate and use different casts to meet the fish.
- Learning the art of fly tying allows campers to become acquainted with equipment and materials. They will work on building their first fly with a two step pattern beginning with basic wraps on a hook.

- **Day Two (1.5 hrs): Know your Knots & Casting 101**

- Knowing your knots is critical for any fisherman. It can make a world of difference in the presentation of the fly. Having a good connection between the fly line, the leader and tippet is important for a smooth cast and keeping a fish on the line. Campers will learn the clinch, uni, and nail knot to start. As camper practice their knots they will learn tricks to make knot tying easier and can try tying more complicated knots.
- With their rod fully set up campers will work on casting into a pond as instructors provide feedback and encouragement for improvement.
- Building off of their 2 step fly from the previous day campers will add the next addition to their fly by adding dubbing and wings.

- **Day Three (1.5 hrs): Fish Hatchery Field Trip**

- Learning how to read a stream is important to success in fishing. Reading water is like reading a book that has come to life. Once campers have an understanding of riffles, runs and pools they can apply their understanding by casting towards areas where fish are more likely to be.
- A fly fisherman is also a part time scientist that is constantly learning about what lives in the stream. Knowing the kinds of bugs that live in a stream can indicate what trout are eating and the overall health of the stream. Campers will immerse themselves in the entomology of the streams and lakes of the Bighorns.

- **Day Four (1.5 hrs): Moving Water - Mountain Creek**

- Hiking along a stream with your fly rod in hand is an overlooked but very critical skill to avoid equipment damage. Instructors will cover different techniques for holding your rod and line as you hike to the next hole. These are requisite skills to prevent snagging your line, breaking your rod tip, and dinging up your reel.
- Sometimes getting to the next fishing spot requires you to cross the stream. Campers will learn how to read the water, and manage risk when crossing.
- Putting together the skills of reading water, fly presentation and rod set up, campers will learn to fish on moving water, how to control their line, mend, and set the hook.

- **Day Five (8 hrs): Hiking into a Alpine lake**

- Head up to an alpine lake in the Bighorns for a full day fly fishing adventure where campers will apply their skills and learn to fish the backcountry holes that are out of reach for most fisherman.