

Fly Fishing for Beginners
Instructor: Mike Carpenter, Fly Fishers International Certified Casting
Instructor
Thursday July 16, 2020

Of the outdoor sports, fly fishing is arguably the most poetic. Over the past century, Montana's blue ribbon trout streams have lured in explorers from all over the world. From beginners to active anglers, we invite you to come and increase your skills in this friendly learning environment. Participants will spend the morning learning stream ecology and casting technique. The afternoon will be spent applying your new skills into practice on the wild and scenic banks of the North Fork of the Flathead River.

About the Instructor: With almost 30 years of fly fishing experiences, Mike has had the opportunity to fish in New Zealand, Chile, Belize, the Bahamas, Mexico and around the U.S. He has been teaching fly fishing and fly casting for the past 10 years. Mike strives to influence his students to become passionate in their pursuit of the sport of fly fishing and the beautiful places it takes you to.

Meeting Place: **Big Creek Outdoor Education Center**

Meeting Time: Thursday, July 16 at 9:00am

Tentative itinerary (subject to chance):

9:00 Welcome: Meet at Big Creek Outdoor Education Center (see campus map). Brief Orientation.

9:15 Rods, Reels, Lines, Knots, and Flies: We will discuss equipment, assembly how-to, break-down, and general maintenance & care.

10:15 Where are the fish and what are they eating?: Exploration of Big Creek will lead to the understanding of basic principles of where the fish hide and what they eat. We will discuss aquatic invertebrates and how they relate to the flies we use.

11:00 Casting: Students will learn the correct methods of casting. We will then practice in an open field before adventuring onwards to the river.

12:45 Lunch

1:15 To the River: We will meet down at the river. We will go through proper safety procedures and spend a few minutes discussing stream flows, establishing a drag free drift, fish hooking, fighting and safely releasing our catch. Students will then have the opportunity to independently spread out and use what we learned in the morning to better their craft. Students will then spend the rest of the afternoon applying lessons learned.

4:00 Dismissal

Food: Students are responsible for their own meals. Please bring a sack lunch and ample snacks for trail days. Use of the kitchen is restricted to Glacier Institute Staff only. No food or cooking is allowed in the cabins.

Gear List: All participants should bring some sort of protective eyewear for the class. Polarized sunglasses are ideal. The Glacier Institute has fly fishing gear available if you

do not have your own. You will need to bring shoes you can get wet in. **We will not use rubber hip boots.** Old sneakers will work fine. Prepare for all weather.

Fishing License: Students will independently practice in the afternoon from the riverbanks of Glacier National Park. While fishing in Glacier, students do *not* need a fishing license.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact our office at (406) 755-1211. We would be glad to answer any queries you may have.

Weather: This course will not be canceled due to weather. Please check the weather forecast in advance and refer to the gear list for proper attire.

Physical Requirements: We will be outside on our feet all day. Students should be able to walk over loose rocks along the river banks.

Accommodations: Lodging can be purchased for \$35/person/night at the Glacier Institute Field Camp. Facilities include bunkhouses, a community bathhouse, a library and a kitchen. Please call the registrar at 406-755-1211 to book lodging.