

4-H

Fly Tying Proficiency Program

A Member's Guide

OVERVIEW

The 4-H Fly Tying Proficiency program helps you learn what you need to know about your 4-H project. You will learn what equipment is necessary to tie flies.

There are many resources to help you learn more about your project:

- The University of California Davis has free resources available online by visiting: <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/4HYouthDevelopment/>. This site lists a variety of project materials and resources recommended for use in your project.
- The Lassen County 4-H Resources and Lending Library at our county 4-H Office includes other books, videos, and reference materials that can be checked out by members and leaders.
- Stores that sell fishing supplies may offer classes and other educational activities as well as equipment. Many communities have local fishing clubs that can be a great resource to you.

There are five levels in the Project Proficiency Program. You may choose how many levels you wish to complete:

- ◆ Level I – “Explorer”, you begin to learn about many different aspects of your fly tying project.
- ◆ Level II – “Producer”, you practice and refine the many skills involved in fly tying.
- ◆ Level III – “Consumer”, you become experienced in tying flies.
- ◆ Level IV – “Leader”, allows you to show your own leadership potential.
- ◆ Level V – “Researcher”, you carry out a demonstration or experiment on some aspect of tying flies.

As you work through the proficiency program, your leader will date each skill item as you complete it. When all items in a proficiency level are completed, your leader will sign the Certificate of Achievement.

FLY TYING

Level I - Explorer

Date _____
Completed _____

- _____ 1. What tool is considered the primary, most important tool of the trade?
- _____ 2. The hackle portion of a dry fly gives the fly what?
 - a) A neat appearance
 - b) Some weight to sink
 - c) The wings
 - d) Its buoyancy to float
- _____ 3. What is the primary function of a bobbin?
- _____ 4. Name the piece of equipment that you use to wrap hackles onto the fly.
- _____ 5. Not all bobbins have a tube-type hole in the end but some do. What is the purpose of having a tube-type hole in the end?
Become familiar with the *Western Fly Pattern Dictionary* from Jack Dennis' Western Trout Fly Tying Manual and pick out a fly pattern to share with your project group.
- _____ 6. Western Trout Fly Tying Manual and pick out a fly pattern to share with your project group.
- _____ 7. What does "peacock herl" refer to?
- _____ 8. Name the color and/or colors that the hackle saddles and necks for hackle feathers are. Is there a purpose for them being a certain color?
- _____ 9. Explain what type of rod and hook you should use when you are fishing in "catch and release" waters.
- _____ 10. Name the objects that fly pattern can imitate.
- _____ 11. Fly pattern materials list always includes:
 - Hackle feathers
 - Thread
 - Lead wire for weight
 - Tail material
- _____ 12. In fly fishing, what would you use chenille for?
- _____ 13. Explain some safety tips you should remember when tying flies. Share them with your project group.
- _____ 14. Explain what "gap" means in relation to tying flies.
- _____ 15. Explain what the term "rubber legs" means in relation to tying flies.
- _____ 16. Draw a diagram of a hook. Label the eye, shank, barb, point, gap and bend of the hook.

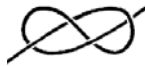
Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

FLY TYING Level II - Producer

Date _____
Completed _____

- _____ 1. There are many brands of hooks for fly fishing, name five.
- _____ 2. What is a "Muddler Minnow"?
- _____ 3. Name the fly pattern that imitates a mayfly.
- _____ 4. Discuss with your group what qualities to look for when purchasing a saddle or neck cape for hackle.
- _____ 5. What are hair stackers? And why are they needed?
- _____ 6. What piece of material is needed when you are dubbing your own thread?
- _____ 7. The fly patterns called Horton, Light Cahill, Hendrickson, Dark Green Drake, Elk Hair Humpy are all variations imitating what?
- _____ 8. What does "hatch" refer to in fly tying?
- _____ 9. What is the "hump" on an Elk Hair Humpy made out of?
- _____ 10. Give an example of a good "attractor" pattern.
- _____ 11. What type do the Aussie Hopper, Jim's Cricket, Carpenter Ant, and The Mouse fall into?
- _____ 12. If your thread breaks midway through tying a fly, what should you do?
- _____ 13. Identify the following knots and explain when you would use them:



Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

FLY TYING
Level III - Consumer

Date _____
Completed _____

Must present 5 flies of each of 10 different patterns that have been tied by oneself, to the project leader. Expect to complete this by end of project year.

1. Project leader suggests that you keep these flies separate from the rest of your flies until they are approved. These flies should represent your best effort and should not have been finished prior to this project year. They will be approved as a whole, not one at a time.

2. Give some group presentation on the subject of fly tying. Presentation can be given at County Presentation Day, to the project group, or at a club meeting.

3. Completion of one of the following activities:

- Gather a collection of 30 different natural trout foods, all properly identified and labeled. Must research out your own reference material to identify the specimens which will probably include mayflies, nymphs, caddis flies, mosquitoes, stoneflies, minnows, grasshoppers, crickets, crayfish, midges, larvae, leeches, damsel flies, etc. Place aquatic in a jar with isopropyl alcohol.
- Plan an extended fishing trip with a very detailed plan of ALL necessary materials and knowledge needed including, but not limited to:
 - Where - location, maps, topography maps, trails, private land, Forest Service, how to get there.
 - Permission – necessary permits, fire permits, camping permits, fees, etc.
 - Type of fish to be expected.
 - Suggested fly patterns for the area.
 - Camping or backpacking supplies – detailed down to a list of items including number of meals and a planned menu
 - Safety – a detailed list of ALL safety issues relevant to the trip and precautionary information (such as altitude sickness at high elevations). Include emergency contacts and phone numbers.
- Any other pre-approved individual project.

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

FLY TYING

Level IV - Leader

Date _____
Completed _____

1. _____ Must present 5 flies of each of 10 different patterns 50 flies total, tied by yourself, to your leader, demonstrating at least six of the following:
 - Clipped hair bodies or heads
 - Small hair Humpy's size 16 or smaller using Blacktail deer hair
 - Parachute style flies
 - Wing flies using duck quill or turkey quill
 - Midges/Emergers of size 18 or smaller
 - Flies using dubbing
 - Other bass or saltwater patterns
1. _____ Serve as Junior or Teen leader in this project for one year.
2. _____ Prepare teaching materials for use at project meetings.
3. _____ Assist younger members in selecting and tying a fly for their project.
4. _____ To produce even hair tips, what important tool is used. Name some patterns you would use this on.
5. _____ Name the tool that will help you spin traditional fine hair or "fuzzy" material such as natural fibers, antron, and poly body materials onto thread which you can then use to form bodies with.
6. _____ Flat waxed nylon thread is an "A" diameter thread and is used for what?
7. _____ Assist younger members in actually learning a specific technique in fly tying.
8. _____ The Gartside Pheasant, Henry's Fork, Joe's Hopper, Jim's Hair, and The Tevorovich are all from what type of pattern?
9. _____ Discuss with your project leader or group, why you would do some research and find out the approximate "hatch" dates of specific insects prior to leaving on a fishing trip.
10. _____ Describe your most memorable fly fishing memory, fly fishing fantasy or describe the step-by-step methods of tying any particular fly pattern.

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

FLY FISHING
Level V - Researcher

Date _____
Completed _____

_____ 1. Prepare a paper of 300 words or give a 15 minute oral report on one of the following topics:

- Evolution of techniques used in fly fishing
- History of specific topic related to fly fishing
- Markets and methods of marketing fly fishing products
- Development of equipment used in your project
- Other

_____ 2. Identify the following knots and explain to your project leader what the purpose of each is:



_____ 3. Serve as Junior or Teen leader in this project for one year.

_____ 4. Prepare teaching materials for use at project meetings.

_____ 5. Assist younger members in selecting and tying a fly for their project.

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Certificate of Achievement

This certifies that

has completed the Fly Tying Proficiency

in Lassen County.

Explorer

Producer

Consumer

Leader

Researcher

Date

Date

Date

Date

Date

Initials

Initials

Initials

Initials

Initials

