

# 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 Solano 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.

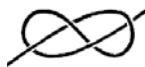
Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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*

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*has completed the Fly Tying Proficiency*

*in Solano County.*

*Explorer*

*Producer*

*Consumer*

*Leader*

*Researcher*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

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