



Beginner's Guide

Essential Gear (Starter Kit)

- Rods: 9' 5wt (all-around trout); 9' 6-7wt if bass-first.
- Reels: Large arbor, smooth disc drag; 20 lb backing.
- Lines: WF floating line (match rod weight).
- Leaders/Tippet: 9-12' 4X-5X leaders; 4X-6X tippet spools.
- Flies: Adams & Parachute Adams (12-18), Elk Hair Caddis (12-16), Pheasant Tail (12-18), Hare's Ear (12-16), Woolly Bugger (6-10, olive/black).
- Tools: Nippers, forceps, floatant + desiccant, indicators, split shot, polarized glasses, hat.
- Carry: Small fly box, rubber-bag net, waders/boots as needed, water + sunscreen.

Rod & Reel Selection (Quick Fit)

- Rods: Medium-fast action = forgiving timing + handles light wind.
- Reels: Balance the outfit (neutral in hand); match line weight to rod.
- Setup: Backing -> fly line -> leader -> tippet ring (optional) -> tippet -> fly.

Casting & Line Control (Day-1 Basics)

- Overhead: Short, straight power stroke; crisp stops (~10 and 2 o'clock); pause to let the backcast straighten.
- Roll Cast: Sweep low to high; stop high to unroll.
- Mending: Upstream mend after the fly lands to remove belly; start with 20-30' targets; accuracy > distance.

Water Reading (Where to Aim)

- Riffle heads, inside seams, current breaks (rocks/wood), shade lines.
- Stillwater: Drop-offs, weed edges, points, wind-blown shores.

Safety & Fish Care

- Barbless hooks, polarized glasses, hat.
- Wade smart: shuffle feet, consider a staff; unclip waist belt in heavy current.
- Heat/cold: hydrate; UPF layers; carry a dry top in cold months.
- Keep fish wet; quick photos; face fish into gentle current for revival.