What the Program Provides and What to Bring

The Joe Humphreys' Fly Fishing Stream School - Inspired by the Methods of Joe Humphreys

KNOW YOUR GEAR

What the Program Provides and What to Bring

Everything on this page is provided free at every session. You never need to buy any of it. This guide is so you know your gear and can name every part of it.

What We Provide (every student, every session)

• Rod, reel, and fly line sized for your age tier

• Leader, tippet, and flies

• Safety glasses (your own prescription glasses are fine too)

• Wading belt, and waders and boots when the water calls for them

• Life jacket (PFD): required for ages 6-10 and any non-swimmer in or beside moving water, available to anyone who wants one

• Landing net, forceps, nippers, first-aid kit, and a stream thermometer with every Harvey Leader

What to Bring

• Clothes for the weather, and a layer you can get wet

• Shoes that can get wet (we wet-wade in warm months; when waders are used, the program provides waders, boots, and belts)

• Water bottle, sunscreen, insect repellent, a hat

• A snack; a packed lunch for Summer Camp days

• Rain gear if the sky says so

Parts of a Fly Rod

FLY ROD DIAGRAM

TIP-TOP (tiny guide at very tip)

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MID GUIDES (guide the line)

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BUTT GUIDE (largest)

REEL SEAT (holds reel)

BUTT/HANDLE (grip area)

Understanding Line Weight (the rod you will be handed)

Weight	Who uses it in the program
3-4-weight	Minnow tier (ages 6-10): light, short, small enough to handle
4-weight	Brook Trout tier (ages 11-13): small streams, easy loading
5-weight	Brown Trout tier (ages 14-17): versatile, all-day standard
6-weight	Wind and larger flies; some Warm Waters bass rods

“Never start a child out with a telephone pole for a rod. Start them out with one small enough and light enough for them to handle.” - Joe Humphreys

The Fly Line System

[REEL] FLY LINE (90ft) LEADER (the program leader: a 9-foot knotless nylon leader plus tippet for Minnow and Brook Trout tiers; the 12-foot hand-tied Harvey leader for the Brown Trout tier) TIPPET (18-36”) FLY

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Essential Gear Checklist (all provided)

• EYE PROTECTION: program safety glasses or your prescription glasses. No glasses, no rod in hand. The one rule with no exceptions.

• WADING BELT: on every student in the water, any depth. Prevents water from filling waders.

“We need to be stewards of the stream. You don’t have to pick the fish up out of the water and wave it around. Keep it in the water. We have to work on water quality.” - Joe Humphreys

• LANDING NET: Rubber-mesh, knotless. Keeps fish wet and safe.

• FORCEPS/PLIERS: For quick, clean hook removal.

• FLY BOX: Organized, easy to access. Keep it simple.

• SUNSCREEN & HAT: Stream sun is intense. Reapply often.

Starter Fly Box - What We Fish

Fly Name	Size	What It Does
Hare’s Ear Nymph	#14-16	Mayfly imitation, riffles and runs

Fly Name	Size	What It Does
Copper John	#14-16	Fast-sinking attractor
Elk Hair Caddis	#12-16	Caddis dry, excellent visibility
Parachute Adams	#14-18	Classic all-purpose dry
Woolly Bugger	#8-12	Streamer, big trout magnet

Joe’s Tip on Gear: A good fly line and a long, fine tippet matter more than the rod. The program rigs your rod with nylon monofilament leaders and tippet, because supple nylon stacks in the soft S-curves that give a drag-free drift; Brown Trout tier students may try fluorocarbon tippet for nymphing only, where it sinks and hides. The Davy Knot’s quarter-inch tag end means you waste almost nothing per tie.

If You Ever Buy Your Own (optional, never required)

The program outfits every student for every session, and students may keep using program loaner gear for as long as they take part. If your family ever chooses to buy a rod, match the weight for your age tier in the table above, pick a matched floating line, and add nylon tippet in 4X and 5X; that covers most days. Our partner fly shops and guide services know the program and the gear we teach with, and will point you to any brand that fits.