



## FISHING GUIDE POSITION DESCRIPTION AND QUALIFICATIONS

**Role:** Volunteer Instructor/Guide for a CfR participant for a half day of catch and release fly fishing on the third day of the retreat. Guided fishing may be on either moving or still water. All Fishing Guides should complete a CfR volunteer application which is located on the national website: [www.castingforrecovery.org](http://www.castingforrecovery.org) and should carefully review the position description and information provided by the Fishing Guide Coordinator and retreat staff.

**Qualifications** – A Fishing Guide should:

- Be an experienced fly fisher
- Does NOT need to be a licensed guide, but should be qualified to instruct and assist someone who has never fished before
- Be comfortable wading and assisting a beginning angler in moving water
- Know how to safely catch and release a fish (**barbless hooks only**)
- Be comfortable conversing with women who have or have had breast cancer
- Be physically able to support a participant, including lifting/picking up if necessary. (i.e., If you have recently had a back injury and you can't bend over, you are not physically able to support a participant).

**Time Commitment:** The Fishing Guide Coordinator will provide meeting times and directions prior to the retreat. **An orientation session will be provided prior to fishing.** Please arrive at the scheduled time and be sure to let the Fishing Guide Coordinator know if you have an emergency or are delayed. Fishing Guides are often invited to have breakfast and/or lunch with participants and retreat staff. Attendance at meals is not mandatory but the extra time together can be very beneficial.

**Important Info:**

- **Pets:** All volunteers including Fishing Guides are asked to leave pets at home. Participants may be sensitive due to treatment or allergies and are themselves not allowed to bring pets.
- Please dress in full, appropriate fishing attire (clean shirt, CfR hat (current logo)). Fishing Guides are frequently asked to pose in photographs or participate in media interviews so please take this into consideration.
- CfR provides equipment (see below) so you will not need a rod. Please bring a landing net. Fishing Guides do not fish unless they are demonstrating a cast.
- CfR volunteer policy strictly prohibits self-promotion at retreats. **Please do not use this opportunity to do business.** If a participant specifically asks for contact information it is appropriate to share this.
- Do not smoke cigarettes, vape or use tobacco products while at the retreat.

**Things to Bring:** The following items are helpful to bring:

- Wading staff
- Assortment of flies that are specific to the area you will be fishing
- Catch and release net
- Spare polarized sunglasses and rain jacket
- Camp chair or folding chair
- Reusable water bottle

- CfR hat, if you already have one. If not, you will be provided one. **Do not wear CfR hats with the old pink and purple logo.**

### Equipment provided at the retreat:

- Participants are equipped with a rod, reel, breathable waders, wading boots, and a lanyard that contains tippet, nippers, hemostats and floatant. They may have a water bottle that you will need to carry for them while fishing. Sometimes the participants have received a small gift assortment of flies for use on the water.
- Some participants have learned fly tying and have a few of their own flies with them. Even if her fly doesn't look productive, it's very important to give it a try. Consider giving the fly that you had success with to your participant.

### Instruction Provided to the Participants:

Most of the participants in the CfR program are beginners with very little casting/fishing experience.

Participants receive the following instruction on the second day of the retreat:

- Casting Practice – Two 20-minute sessions – basic pick-up and put-down, line control, and some have practiced shooting line.
- Roll Cast - possibly.
- Hook set and landing a fish.
- Knots - Surgeons and Clinch.
- What Fish Eat – basic (local) entomology that pertains to whatever body of water you will be fishing.

**Providing your participant with a quick review of the previous day's instructions may be helpful** before starting to fish.

### Fishing Day Logistics:

- Orientation session provided once all Fishing Guides have arrived and signed in.
- You will be paired with one participant for the fishing session. If your participant has any special needs you will be informed of those in the orientation session. In some instances, there may be a CfR staff member or another Fishing Guide paired with you as a "Guide Assist", to help provide additional assistance for a participant.
- You may be asked to transport gear or participants to the fishing location. For comfort and safety, a participant should not be transported one-on-one to the fishing site with her Fishing Guide. A female CfR staff member or another participant/Fishing Guide pair should ride with you. In an effort to be environmentally conscious, please limit the number of vehicles in transport to the fishing site, and carpool as much as possible.
- The CfR Medical Facilitator will be stationed at a central location. You will be given instructions on how to reach her. **If any injury/illness occurs (participant falls down, bee sting, hook stick) inform the Medical Facilitator immediately, but do not leave your participant - ask someone nearby to go and get help.**
- Universal precautions to protect yourself from blood exposure should be employed. **You will receive a pair of gloves to use in case of blood exposure.**
- Please get your participant off the water at the scheduled time.
- Please do not leave the area you are assigned to fish without informing someone.

### Tips to Remember:

- **Don't touch your participant without asking.**
- Give only positive feedback. Keep it light... use humor.

- Catching a fish is NOT the goal for this time on the water. If you caught lots of fish with your participant, be mindful that some women may not have caught any. Please don't fish count - this is not a competition!
- **Pinch down the barbs on all flies.**
- Encourage your participant to do as much as possible. Offer assistance but resist casting/fishing for her unless she has made numerous unsuccessful efforts.
- Allow your participant some "space." Peaceful, quiet moments on the water can be very restorative. Don't feel the need to always fill the silence with talking. Be interested, not interesting.
- **SHARE:** If you've found the "honey hole" and your participant has landed several fish while others haven't, offer to switch spots with others... and pass the word about what flies are working.
- All participants **MUST** wear sunglasses and a hat with a brim while fishing, for safety. Please do the same (lead by example).

**Please read "Teaching Women with Breast Cancer to Fly Fish" for more information.**

See [Volunteer Guidelines](#) for additional information about volunteering for this position.