



RIDEM-Fish & Wildlife Aquatic Resource Education Program



**Policies and Procedures for Implementing
Federal Aid Project, F-42-E, Approach No. 4,
Angling Education for Youths and Families**

“Our mission is to ensure that the Freshwater, Marine, and Wildlife Resources of the State of Rhode Island will be conserved and managed for equitable and sustainable use.”

“It is the policy of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management to offer its services and accommodations to all orderly persons, and, as required, to all properly licensed persons, without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, or disability.” If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, facility, or if you desire further information, please write to the Office for Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of the Secretary, Washington, D.C. 20240.

INTRODUCTION

The Aquatic Resource Education (ARE) Program, Federal Aid Project F-42-E, is a 100% federally funded program derived from the Wallop-Breaux Act – Sport Fish Restoration Fund. Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management’s Division of Fish and Wildlife implemented the ARE program with funds from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1986. The Principal Investigator for the project is the ARE Coordinator responsible for developing and implementing the program. The ARE Coordinator is responsible for adhering to all federal and state guidelines. The goal of Rhode Island’s ARE program is to create environmental stewards and a well informed public willing to appreciate and conserve their aquatic resources. The ARE program has evolved to include teacher training workshops, marine and freshwater ecology programs, in-school aquaculture programs, literature publication, and angling training for youths and families.

All programs are described in the Federal Aid Project F-42-E Program Narrative. This information focuses on the policies and procedures of Rhode Island’s ARE Program, Approach Number 4, Angling Education for Youths and Families. The following is a description of the policies and procedures for volunteer and vendor instructor participation, angling gear loan program, venue selection and ARE sponsored events.

ARE PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS

The ARE program relies on in-kind volunteer match to receive federal grant funds. Volunteer participation varies depending upon the event. The ARE Coordinator determines the number of volunteers needed for each event. A recreational fishing event which includes school, scout, or special needs groups will utilize teachers and chaperones as organizational volunteers to assist with monitoring and with the fishing activities. With regard to other angling training events, the ARE Coordinator will determine the number of volunteers needed and select from a group of registered instructor volunteers. Each volunteer is responsible for filling out and signing the ARE volunteer form for federal aid reporting. This form records the number of hours worked, travel time to and from the event, and preparation time. The ARE Coordinator is responsible for the collection and processing all of volunteer forms.

ARE PROGRAM ORGANIZATIONAL VOLUNTEERS

Fishing events that are organized for school, scout, special needs and other organizations are required to include teachers and chaperones that function as organizational volunteers. They are given a brief training and orientation regarding the fishing event and volunteer their time to the program. They are required to monitor their charges for safety and assist with the fishing activity.

ORGANIZATIONAL VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

1. Volunteers will be assisting in the areas of salt and freshwater angling; spincast, bait-casting, surf fishing, fly fishing, fly tying, lure making, rod building, and other associated skills.
2. Volunteers must provide their own transportation to and from the event.
3. Volunteers are responsible for properly filling out and submitting Volunteer Activity sheets to the ARE Coordinator.

ARE PROGRAM INSTRUCTOR VOLUNTEER

There are fishing events such as surf fishing programs, fly fishing introductory workshops, and fly tying workshops, which require specialized skills for instruction. For these, the ARE program has solicited qualified volunteers from fishing clubs such as the United Fly Tyers, Trout Unlimited, and Narragansett Surfcasters. The ARE Coordinator also obtains qualified volunteers from individuals expressing an interest in teaching angling skills to youth and adults. Any person interested in volunteering as an instructor must contact the ARE Coordinator directly at (401)789-0281.

INSTRUCTOR VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

1. Interested volunteers must contact the ARE Coordinator at 401-789-0281 and request a questionnaire with contact information and related experience. It must be sent back to the Coordinator.
2. Volunteers will be assisting in the areas of salt and freshwater angling: spincast, bait-casting, surf fishing, fly fishing, fly tying, lure making, rod building, and other associated skills.
3. Volunteers must have at least 5 years experience in teaching angling skills to all ages and to large groups.
4. Volunteers must attend all instructor orientation meetings established by the ARE Coordinator.
5. It is preferred that a volunteer be a member in good standing of a fishing club or organization associated with angling. Examples include, but are not limited to, Trout Unlimited, United Fly Tyers, RI Saltwater Anglers Association, Narragansett Surf Casters, and United Fly Tyers,.
6. Volunteers must provide their own transportation to and from events and meetings.
7. Volunteers are responsible for properly filling out and submitting Volunteer Activity sheets to the ARE Coordinator.

ARE PROGRAM VENDOR INSTRUCTORS

For some events, it is necessary to have vendor instructors who are compensated for their time. Such cases include some angling workshops, which require a participant registration fee. This guarantees that highly qualified instructors will participate in instruction. The ARE Coordinator is solely responsible for determining and selecting the number of vendor instructors needed for each event. The ARE Coordinator will determine the hourly rate at which they are compensated. Vendor instructors are acquired in accordance with State of Rhode Island Purchasing Guidelines.

VENDOR INSTRUCTOR REQUIREMENTS

1. Vendor instructors must act as volunteer instructors for at least 2 programs.
2. Vendor instructors must fill out a questionnaire with contact information and related experience.
3. Vendors will be assisting in the areas of salt and freshwater angling: spincast, bait-casting, surf fishing, fly fishing, fly tying, lure making, rod building, and other associated skills.

4. Vendors must have at least 5 years experience in teaching fishing to all ages and to large groups.
5. Vendors must attend all instructor orientation meetings established by the Coordinator.
6. It is preferred that a volunteer be a member in good standing of a fishing club or organization associated with angling. Examples include, but are not limited to, Trout Unlimited, United Fly Tyers, RI Saltwater Anglers Association, Narragansett Surf Casters, and United Fly Tyers,
7. Vendors must provide their own transportation to and from events and meetings.
8. Vendors must submit a W-9 form.
9. Vendors must create and submit their own invoices which include work time only (vendors will not be paid for travel).
10. Vendors are responsible for properly filling out volunteer forms for travel and program preparation time. Vendor instructors are NOT paid for travel or preparation time; it is part of in-kind match.

TEAM TEACHING

The ARE Program strongly promotes the team teaching concept. It is used with volunteer instructors and vendor instructors. It is the most effective method because it encourages consistency among the instructors as well as provides a less strenuous teaching environment for one instructor.

Team leaders are chosen by the ARE Coordinator based on prior curricula development and teaching experience. Team leaders coordinate teaching methods, develop materials and equipment lists, and check on availability of other instructors. The team leader is responsible for the introductory lecture prior to a specific event and may be either a volunteer instructor or a vendor instructor. If a vendor, the team leader will be paid at the same rate as the other vendor instructors and must follow the same reporting procedures as the other vendor instructors.

ARE FLYFISHING AND FLYTYING EVENTS

The Aquatic Resource Education introduced a fly fishing component into the program narrative in 1991. To service the public's demand, two yearly fly fishing workshops were established: "Introduction to Freshwater Fly fishing" held in the spring and "Introduction to Saltwater Fly fishing" held in the fall. The ARE program also began holding fall/winter fly tying classes.

PROGRAM CURRICULA

Each fly fishing introductory course will be led by a team of fly fishing instructors and will follow an exact formula that introduces students to the basics of fly fishing in a 6 hour time span. The team leader will be chosen by the ARE Coordinator and will be responsible for giving a brief overview of the agenda, describing the history and methodology of fly fishing, the equipment needed to fly fish, reading the water, safety considerations, the entomology of insects, baitfish characteristics, and how to choose a fly. The students are then acquainted with fly tying, knot tying and casting techniques. In the afternoon, the students continue casting practice and shore fishing in the pond or estuary using the flies that were tied earlier. The last section of the event will consist of program evaluation and material hand-outs, provided by the ARE Coordinator.

VENUE SELECTION

The Aquatic Resource Education program does not have a facility to accommodate large fly fishing venues. Therefore, alternative locations are used throughout the state. Some are public areas, others are private facilities. The following are criteria for location selection:

1. It must accommodate at least 50 people.
2. It must possess sanitary facilities.
3. It must have area to protect participants from outdoor elements.
4. It must provide ample tables and sitting areas for guests.
5. For fly fishing introductory workshops, it must have ample outdoor facilities to practice casting techniques and a pond or estuary nearby where participants can fish.
6. It must allow catered events.
7. It must be free of charge, in-kind donation, or of low cost to the program.

EQUIPMENT LOAN PROGRAM

Rhode Island's ARE has created a loan program to aid individuals, groups, and families to participate in angling skills. The ARE program established a borrowing system that is now used by all types of groups including private, state, municipal, and federal, free of charge. All types of fishing equipment for groups can be borrowed from the ARE Training Pond facilities at the Carolina Trout Hatchery, Richmond, RI. Fishing equipment for individuals are located at loan stations at 3 libraries in the state: Coventry, Lincoln and North Scituate. The RI Salt Water Anglers Association maintains the equipment at these locations.

BORROWING EQUIPMENT

Individuals or groups can contact the ARE Coordinator and make a request to borrow fishing equipment. The Coordinator will gather all pertinent contact information as well as arrange pick-up and drop-off times and locations. Unless otherwise arranged with the Coordinator, the equipment will be picked up directly from the ARE Training Pond facility located at the Carolina Trout Hatchery. In order to track items being borrowed, the equipment is checked out by hatchery personnel at the time the equipment leaves the premises. When the items are picked up by the borrower, a sign-out sheet used where the ARE program representative (Coordinator, student researcher, hatchery personnel) must initial the check out of equipment and the borrower must sign the sheet. Once returned, the sheet is initialed by an ARE representative collecting the fishing gear. Gear can be loaned out for any length of time; however, it must all be returned by December 1 of that year for yearly inventory and maintenance.

Those individuals interested in borrowing freshwater spincast rods can borrow rods from 1 of the 3 libraries throughout Rhode Island: Coventry, Scituate, and Lincoln. Borrowers must adhere to the library policies and must possess a CLAN card.

ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR LOAN

Freshwater Spincast Rods with Associated Tackle
Freshwater Spinning Rods (open reel) with Associated Tackle
Surf Fishing Rods and Associated Tackle
Freshwater and Saltwater Fly Fishing Rods & Fly Tying Kits

ARE SPONSORED ANGLING PROGRAMS

The ARE Program has a variety of programs available to the public which include programs solely run by the ARE Program and collaborative programs with other organizations and groups. If applicable, the volunteer procedure described earlier is used.

ARE Angling Programs:

Carolina Trout Hatchery - ARE Training Pond Programs;

- for children: spin cast fishing- school, scout, organization, special needs.
- for adults and children: fly fishing, spin cast fishing, lure making

Statewide:

- for children: spin cast fishing, surf fishing - school, scout, special needs, non-profit
- for adults and children: fly fishing, fly tying, rod building, lure making, surf fishing

Collaborative ARE Programs:

Trout Unlimited
Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association
United Fly Tyers of Rhode Island
Bradford Sportsmens Club
Warwick Sportsmens Club
Wallum Lake Rod and Gun Club
Friends of the Blackstone River
Narragansett Recreation Dept.
Charlestown Recreation Dept.
South Kingstown Recreation Dept.
Richmond Recreation Dept.
Girl Scouts of Rhode Island
Rhode Island fish & Game Protective Association
Camp E-Hun-Tee
Boys and Girls Clubs of Providence
Camp Davis
The Homestead Group
ARC of Woonsocket
Narragansett Surf Casters
Narragansett Chapter of the Boy Scouts of RI
Providence Rotary Club
Home School Programs
Community Solutions
East Bay Anglers
Big Brothers of RI
No. Providence Recreation Dept.
Johnston Parks and Recreation Dept.
Electric Boat Wellness Program
Harmony Hill School
Municipal and private schools special needs groups
Other