

Fish School Host Instructions

Thanks so much for coming to Fish School today!

Following the school schedule for fish school, you will have half of the students for half of the time, and then exchange with the invertebrate lab next door for the other half. Usually this is about 10 minutes for 10 people – 12 times in a day, but just think of it as pleasant stop-in visits, and be flexible. No two visits are exactly alike.

Welcome the whole group over the railing, and invite your half in to fish school. Let them look around for a minute into the tanks, and point out any interesting fish happenings of the day (like the chub building a nest!) Tell them all these fish live in the South River, but it's hard to see them there, so we just brought them up for a visit to get to know them better. They will be returned to the river after field trip season. (In fact, the trout are going home even sooner, since the temperature is warming up in the water.)

Invite students to open a tackle box – in pairs usually works well, and get to know one species. Interact with the kids as they read about their fish, and help them to find it in the tank. They may try the “Catch Me If You Can” test, which they can take with them. (The answers are even on the paper!).

Before they can get bored (several minutes), get out the card deck, roll out the felt strip, and invite the group to play a special survival edition game of “Go-Fish” with you. Roll out the felt strip, arrange the tree cookies in an oval so everyone can see, pass out the laminated fish, and, and start dealing! The goal of this game is to find solutions to the Stressors and keep your fish alive!

Specific Go-Fish Card Game rules will be with the deck.

After 2 rounds, congratulate the survivors, take up the cards and tell the students to put the tackle boxes back on the shelf, and go next door to the Invertebrate Lab to see some fish “Fast Food”. Help make a pleasant exchange of kids with the invertebrate lab, and repeat.

Many thanks for coming today, for making fish school pleasant and meaningful. These students are more likely to care about the river because of you!