

# Fly Fishing Guide Responsibilities

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## **Introduction**

As guides we have certain responsibilities and our role is generally not discussed. We are always accountable for our actions and should act accordingly. Please direct any suggestions, or comments to: [cefnoram@gmail.com](mailto:cefnoram@gmail.com) This is a living document it is subject to change and your suggestions are encouraged.

## 1. Environment

### (a) Water quality:

1. It is difficult to have a positive impact as an individual.
2. Get to know the environmental issues for the waters you guide.
3. Stay informed.

### (b) Conservation:

1. Get evolved with the local groups in your area.
2. Educate yourself about conservation issues within your fisheries.

### (c) Catch & Release fishing practices:

1. Instill this philosophy into all your clients.
2. We as guides and outfitters are practicing in a consumption based industry, and we need to do our best to minimize or negative impact on the fish populations.

### (d) Minimize your impact to the environment:

1. How you conduct yourself, while guiding, is very important.
  - A. No littering.
  - B. Practice, and implement, the seven Leave No Trace [LNT] principles whenever possible.
  - C. Do not fish the same area ever day [Guide Pressure].

## 2. Guest/Client

### (a) Safety:

1. Your client might not be comfortable on the water.
2. Being able to assess your clients capability is essential.
3. Do not make assumptions.

### (b) Enjoyment:

1. In some situations, a client that catches many fish but does not enjoy the experience will result in an unhappy client.
2. In contrast, if you are able to provide your client with a great experience and your client does not catch any fish, at the end of the day, you will have a very happy client.
3. In general, your client wants to have a good time as much as they want to catch fish.
  - A. Some clients are not satisfied unless they are catching fish and some are not satisfied unless they are catching big fish.
4. You must provide a quality experience for your clients.

(c) Instruction & Education:

1. Teach your client as much as possible.
  - A. Teach them to cast.
  - B. Teach them about the water.
  - C. Teach them about equipment.
    - A. It is important to remember you should always educate do not legislate.

(d) Catching fish:

1. You are responsible for putting your clients on fish.
  - A. You can not cast for your client.
  - B. You can not set the hook for your client.
2. Do your job and do not complain when the fish are not biting.
  - A. Do not say things such as “I do not know why they are not biting” or “I sure hope you catch a fish.” This is type of language is unprofessional and shows a lack of skill.
3. When your client is not catching fish do not complain; just do your job!
  - A. Truly gifted guides provide their clients’ a good experience even if the fish are sleeping.

**3. To your employer**

- (a) Always represent the company in a professional manner.
  1. Take care of your equipment and make sure it is in order.
- (b) Perform risk reduction tasks when ever possible.
- (c) You must comply with all company policy’s, rules and regulations.
- (d) Promote the company by proving your competence as an outdoor leader.
- (e) Explain the natural resources that surround you.
- (f) Prompt yourself.

**4. To the sport**

- (a) Generate enthusiasm for the sport of fly fishing.
- (b) Whenever possible bring new people into the sport.
- (c) As a responsible guide you must always respect other people on the water.
  1. Whenever you have an opportunity you must make a positive impact.
    - A. Always remember, you are trying to “influence upwards.”
- (d) Guide – to – guide conflicts should be resolved on the water whenever possible.

Note: The above list is in no particular order. I have added this graph to illustrate our responsibilities, and show which I feel is most important.

