



2023 IGFA Summer Camp Themes



Date	Theme	Description
Week 1 June 12 - 16	From Fresh to Salt	There are many different places to go fishing. Some anglers prefer freshwater whereas others prefer fishing in saltwater. A mixture between fresh and salt is brackish water where a lot of nice game fish live as well. Campers will learn about what techniques and bait to use for fishing in all types of aquatic habitats.
Week 2 June 19 - 23	Bigger, Better, Basser	The largemouth bass is the most sought-after freshwater game fish whereas the peacock bass has proven to be quite the enjoyable game fish to target as well. Campers will have the opportunity to learn advanced techniques to improve their chances of hooking up on a largemouth or peacock bass. These freshwater field trips are designed to increase the camper's chance as well!
Week 3 June 26 – 30	Sharks!	Sharks have been misunderstood for years but have been a great curiosity of both scientists and anglers. Campers will dive into the world of these apex predators and investigate why they are so important to the survival of the oceans.
Week 4 July 10 – 14	Which Fish is Which	Campers will dive into the wonderful world of fishes! Proper fish identification and how to follow the rules and regulations is very important when it comes to fishing. Campers will also learn the basics of fishing and go fishing in both freshwater and saltwater locations.
Week 5 July 17 – 21	Natural Bait is Great!	Fishing with natural bait can be extremely effective because you are presenting the fish with an option they are already used to eating. Campers will test out various natural baits from live worms to live shrimp and baitfish. Campers will also test out some not so common natural baits like cheese and poultry hotdogs!
Week 6 July 24 – 28	Catch 'em With Artificials	There are so many different types of bait to use while fishing from worms, to baitfish, artificial bait, and much more. Artificial baits are man-made, usually created from metal, plastic, or other materials. They're designed to mimic prey or to annoy the fish into biting the lure. Campers will test their luck trying to catch a fish while using various artificial lures that are usually not offered to our campers.
Week 7 July 31 – August 4	Fishin' on Fly	Fly fishing is a challenging and graceful way of fishing. People often think it can only be done in rivers or streams for trout and salmon, but they're wrong. All you need to fly fish, is open water, and a fly rod! Campers will get the opportunity to practice casting and retrieving the fly line while using the IGFA's fly rods. They'll even learn to tie their own "flies" and are encouraged to test their new skills while at our field trip sites.
Week 8 August 7 – 11	That Behavior is Fishy	There are many different species of fish out there with different behaviors making each species unique. Campers will explore different fish behaviors such as schooling to appreciate the elaborate life of a fish! Understanding fish behavior will also help campers understand what techniques to use while fishing based on what species they are targeting.
Week 8 August 7 - 11	Advanced Angling <i>(ages 10-14)</i>	Campers' skills will be put to the test and improved upon to target more impressive game fish. This week will include lessons from and fishing alongside Pro Staff, Captains, and IGFA World Record Holders. IGFA camps are usually all Catch and Release but not this week! Campers who catch a legal fish on the drift boats can keep it and learn what the next steps are including how to filet and cook their catch.