Checklist of Equipment, Bait and other Gear  by Dennis Tubbs

Before going fishing, make sure you have everything you need. Here is a checklist of items you need:

✔ Fishing rod and reel. Spincasting outfits are good for beginners. NOTE: There are a few places where you can borrow fishing rods and reels, as you would borrow a book from the library. Visit the Fish & Boat Commission’s web site www.fish.state.pa.us.

✔ Line on the reel. Check it for twists, nicks or knots. Change the line, if necessary. Use 6-pound test as a good all-around size.

✔ Tackle box with lots of hooks, sinkers, bobbers and any other lures you can find. Many sporting goods stores now sell tackle boxes already stocked with these items.

✔ Lucky fishing hat and vest.

✔ Sunscreen.

✔ Live bait such as red worms, nightcrawlers, maggots, mealworms and grasshoppers. Bait can be bought at a local bait shop. Bait can also be found in your garden. Dig around the plants with your parents and find your own worms.

✔ Kitchen baits such as chicken livers, cheese, bread and dough balls.

✔ Plenty of drinking water, especially necessary on hot days.

✔ Snacks.

✔ Insect repellent.

✔ Waders if you have them, old sneakers if you don’t.

✔ Rain gear (just in case).

✔ A fishing buddy.

✔ Mom and/or Dad and your brothers or sisters.

✔ Family members 16 and older need a fishing license. A license can be bought at most stores that sell fishing equipment. Licenses are also available online at the Fish & Boat Commission’s web site www.fish.state.pa.us.

✔ Good Luck!

Have a great time fishing with your parents!