



Virginia Fly-Fishing School

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Overview:

The Orvis Virginia Fly-Fishing School is held at the Homestead Resort in Hot Springs, Virginia. Nestled in a secluded area of the Alleghany Mountains in west central Virginia, the Homestead is just 1½ hours from the Roanoke, Virginia Airport.

There are plenty of activities available on the Homestead property or nearby, from three championship golf courses to world-class sporting clays, five stands, and a skeet range. Outdoor adventures abound including hiking, horseback riding, a world famous spa, falconry, canoeing, kayaking, nearby white water rafting, caving, and mountain biking.

Seasonal Weather/Fishing Conditions:

April/May—Expect high temperatures in the fifties and sixties, and lows in the forties. Good river flow on nearby rivers and Cascades Stream.

June/July/August—Expect high temperatures in the seventies and low eighties, and lows in the high fifties and low sixties. River flows will be determined by the amount of rainfall. The Cascades will maintain normal stream flow.

September/October—Expect high temperatures in the sixties and low seventies, lows in the high thirties and forties. Stream flows will be determined by summer rainfall, with the Cascades Stream remaining near normal.

Weather conditions can change quickly. We recommend that you dress in layers, wear or bring a pair of rubber-bottom boots (as the grounds around the casting areas can become damp), and **please remember to bring raingear, polarized sunglasses, hat, and sunblock.**

General School Information:

We look forward to meeting you at Allegheny Outfitters for registration at 8:30 a.m. on the first day. If you should have any questions about this reservation, please feel free to contact school reservations at 866-531-6213, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. You may contact Allegheny Outfitters directly by calling 540-839-7760.

Equipment: The school staff will issue various graphite rods, 8 to 9 feet in length for line weights 4 or 5. An 8- and/or 9-weight rod will be available at the casting area for students who want to cast a heavier-weight rod. We use all weight-forward floating lines and a variety of Orvis reels in the program. Waders or hip boots are provided. We recommend you pack extra changes of socks for use with wading gear.

Capacities & Student/Instructor Ratio: The typical Virginia school capacity is 12 students, with a student/instructor ratio of 4:1.

Program: Instruction is geared toward beginners, but students of all levels are welcome and encouraged to progress at their own rate. Our teaching methods allow us to handle even experienced fly casters. Indoor and outdoor sessions are evenly divided, with the main emphasis placed on developing proper fly-casting skills. Our goal is to have students exit the program with the ability to handle 30-plus-foot casts efficiently, have a thorough understanding of fly selection, leaders, knot-tying, reading water, etiquette, and the applications and use of related gear and equipment in both moving and still water. We also encourage an appreciation for fine tackle and emphasize the importance of the catch-and-release ethic, a clean and healthy outdoor environment, and the continued pursuit of quality fly-fishing experiences through the promotion of our Orvis-Endorsed Lodge and Guide services.

Cancellation Policy:

Should you need to cancel the school within 30 days prior to the starting date, we will issue a gift certificate in the amount of the cancelled school. That gift certificate may be used toward another school date of your choice.

Two-Day Class Program:

Day One

- 8:30 a.m. Student registration at Allegheny Outfitters.
- 9:00 a.m. Introductions and discussion of school program.
- 9:30 a.m. Classroom presentation—lines, reels, and rods.
- 10:45 a.m. Classroom presentation—*The Orvis Progressive Fly Casting Method*, part one: video on the basic casting stroke.
- 11:00a.m. Demonstration of basic casting stroke; students casting
- 12:00p.m. Lunch.

- 12:45 p.m. Classroom presentation—*The Orvis Progressive Fly Casting Method*, part two: video on shooting line, false casting, and roll casting.
- 1:00 p.m. Demonstration on shooting line, false casting, and roll casting; students casting.
- 2:00 p.m. Classroom presentation—leaders, knot-tying. Discussion on weight and strike indicators.
- 3:30 p.m. Travel to Allegheny Outfitters for presentation on equipment and accessories.
- 4:30 p.m. End of day one.
- 4:45 p.m. Open fishing on the Sheep Meadow Pond.

Day Two

- 8:45 a.m. Students meet at Allegheny Outfitters.
- 9:00 a.m. Classroom presentation—Entomology, fly selection, and how to fish flies. Tips on how to handle, photograph, and release fish.
- 10:00 a.m. Video analysis.
- 10:45 a.m. *The Orvis Progressive Fly Casting Method*, part three: video on the double haul.
- 11:00 a.m. Demonstration on the double haul; students casting.
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch—Cascades Stream.
- 12:30 p.m. Demonstration on hook-setting and fish fighting techniques. Demonstration on fishing dry flies, nymphs, wet flies, and streamers; students fishing
- 3:30 p.m. Classroom presentation—Orvis-endorsed fishing trips and tips on fishing with guides. Closing statements and graduation certificates.
- 4:00 p.m. End of school (Students may fish Cascades Stream until 30 minutes prior to nightfall, if desired.)

Lodging Options:

Most students stay at The Homestead Resort, as they offer special rates for Orvis School students. Students who wish to lodge at The Homestead Resort should call The Homestead to make reservations. Please mention that you are a student to receive a special rate.

The hotel of your choice will confirm your reservation separately. Payment for lodging should be made directly to the hotel.

The Homestead
 7696 Sam Snead Highway
 Hot Springs, VA 24445
 800-838-1766
www.thehomestead.com

Bed and Full Breakfast:

Kings Victorian Inn	540-839-3134
Anderson Cottage	540-839-2975
Three Hills	540-839-5381

Bed and Continental Breakfast:

Vine Cottage Inn	540-839-2422
Warm Springs Inn	540-839-5321
Gristmill Square	540-839-2231

Motels in the Hot Springs Area:

Hillcrest Motel	540-839-5316
Roseloe Motel	540-839-5373

Motels in the Covington Area:

Best Western	540-962-4951
Comfort Inn	540-962-2141
Knights Court	540-962-7600
Pinehurst Motel	540-962-2154

Bath County Chamber Of Commerce	800-628-8092
Virginia Road Conditions	800-367-7623

Orvis-Endorsed Guides:**Allegheny Outfitters at The Homestead Resort**

1766 Homestead Drive

Hot Springs, VA 24445

540-839-7760

Web-site: www.thehomestead.com

E-mail: Kelly.wolfe@thehomestead.com

Nestled on thousands of acres in the Allegheny Mountains of Virginia, The Homestead has been welcoming visitors since the 18th century. With 483 luxurious rooms and renowned for its natural hot mineral springs and rich historical ambience, The Homestead is the perfect place to enjoy or improve your fly-fishing skills. The resort has over four miles of blue-ribbon catch-and-release waters. Our limestone creek, with both wild and stocked rainbows, courses down a 350-foot vertical-drop gorge accentuated by 13 breathtaking waterfalls. The stream is suited for both the novice and the experienced angler. With access to numerous local waters—containing both wild and stocked rainbows, browns and brookies—we can plan your guided fly-fishing adventure. The resort features a European-style spa, equestrian center, shooting sports, canoeing/kayaking, bowling, and much more.

L.E. Rhodes

7456 Blenheim Road Scottsville, VA 24590

434-286-3366 or 434-996-5506

Web-site: www.hatchmatcherguideservice.com

E-mail: ler@hatchmasterguideservice.com

Smallmouth fishing on the James and Shenandoah Rivers. Wade package available on the tributaries of the James. Full- and half-day trips. All skill levels welcome. 2.5 Hours from Hot Springs

Wisp Outdoors

Wisp Resort, McHenry, MD 21541

301-387-4000

Web-site: www.wispresort.com

E-mail: pdailey@wispresort.com

In the mountains of Western Maryland, just minutes away from Deep Creek Lake awaits the waters of the Savage, North Branch of the Potomac, Youghiogheny and Casselman rivers, which offer something for anglers of all skill levels. Rainbows, browns, brookies, and cutthroats all make up the local Grand Slam. Wisp Outdoors offers float trips, wading trips, guide service, fly-fishing school, rentals, lessons, and onsite Orvis fly shop. 3.5 hours from Hot Springs