



# Outdoor Families of New Jersey's Outdoor Skills Workshop

(Fishing, Birding & Outdoor Survival Skills)



**September 24, 2017**  
**8:30 am to 4:00 pm**

The Outdoor Skills Workshop is part of the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife's "Outdoor Families of New Jersey" (O.F.N.J.) program. O.F.N.J. workshops are designed to provide **families** with a welcoming environment in which to learn outdoor skills. (For this workshop, children must be **age 7 or older**). These workshops are for you if you are a newcomer to the outdoors, an outdoor enthusiast who wants to learn new skills, or someone who wishes to network with other outdoor enthusiasts.

### About the Workshop:

This workshop is **FREE** of charge, and it includes the use of equipment, instruction and lunch. Participants will meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Hackettstown Fish Hatchery in Hackettstown, NJ on September 24<sup>th</sup> to participate in **two** of the three activities offered, a morning session and an afternoon session. (See session descriptions below.) All classes will have an indoor classroom component, followed by an outdoor activity component. The workshop will run rain or shine, so please dress accordingly.

### Facility:

The Hackettstown State Fish Hatchery, also known as the Charles O. Hayford State Fish Hatchery, opened in 1912. The facility is now used for the production and distribution of cool and warmwater fish. The hatchery also raises gambusia (mosquitofish) to supply to county mosquito control commissions. The hatchery is located along the banks of the Musconetcong River, and it consists of a large state of the art fish culture facility, education center, and an extensive pond complex consisting of 100 earthen ponds.

### Registration:

Complete the registration form on page 3 and mail to: Michelle Smith, NJDEP Division of Fish & Wildlife, 1 Eldridge Road, Robbinsville, NJ 08691. Upon receipt of your registration, you will be **e-mailed** a confirmation notice, followed before the workshop by directions, and a list of items you need to bring to be prepared.

**Registration deadline has been extended to August 31, 2017** (provided space is still available). No registrations will be accepted after that date.

**NOTE:** Registration is **limited to 40 participants**, 7 years of age and older. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Registrations are taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

### Requirements:

Participants ages 16 to 64 years old must possess a valid resident fishing license if electing to participate in the freshwater fishing session. Senior resident fishing licenses are required for those ages 65-69 years. Licenses may be purchased at [www.nj.wildlifelicense.com](http://www.nj.wildlifelicense.com) or at a license agent.

### Cancellation:

The deadline for cancellation is September 8, 2017. You may send a substitute if you are unable to attend provided they complete the application form prior to the event.

### Questions?

Contact Michelle Smith at [Michelle.Smith@dep.nj.gov](mailto:Michelle.Smith@dep.nj.gov) or (609) 259-6961.



# Class Descriptions

## Outdoor Skills Workshop for O.F.N.J.

**A. Freshwater Fishing:** Go freshwater fishing at the hatchery ponds! Participants will learn about freshwater fishing equipment use and selection, knot tying, fishing strategies and techniques, regulations and ethics, as well as fish biology and ecology. The class will also cover freshwater kayak fishing information and highlight great fishing opportunities throughout NJ. Everything a novice angler needs to get started will be covered! All equipment will be provided for the fishing component. However, you can bring your own equipment, if you prefer. *(Morning session is filled; afternoon class still available.)*



**B. Birding 101:** Participants will be introduced to the world of birding by learning how to identify birds through size, song, behavior and habitat. Learn all about binoculars and equipment that can be used to enhance your knowledge and enjoyment while in the field. Participants will hike using field guides and binoculars to view birds and practice your new skills. Binoculars and field guides will be available, but you are welcome to bring your own if possible. Complimentary copies of the *New Jersey Wildlife Viewing Guide* will also be provided. This class is only offered during the morning session.



**C. Outdoor Survival Skills:** Take advantage of the many resources available in the field, forest and stream. During this exploratory walk we'll learn to recognize resources that aid in survival like wild edibles and discuss how they can elevate your wild game cooking and bring a deeper connection with our natural landscape. Whether your fishing, hunting or hiking it's time to smarten up to the "forest groceries" that surround us. Best practices for staying warm and dry during an unintended night in the outdoors will also be covered. This class is only offered during the afternoon session. *(This class session is filled, and no longer available.)*



**\*Note:** A guided tour of the Hackettstown Hatchery fish production building will be held during lunch for interested participants.

