



PLANNING FOR YOUR GCLA FISHING TRIP OR EVENT, and WHAT TO EXPECT

1) Find Out which trip is right for you and PLAN AHEAD!

- a) All GCLA trip attendees must be paid members. Membership is \$40 annually and can be paid on our website at www.gulfcoastladyanglers.com. A membership form may also be printed, completed, and mailed to our P.O. Box along with payment.
- b) Membership dues are non-refundable.
- c) GCLA leadership typically posts major trip dates and approximate costs at the beginning of the year on our website at www.gulfcoastladyanglers.com and on our Facebook Events page. You can also find them listed in the GCLA Newsletter sent to the member's email.
- d) Throughout the year, you will see other fishing related events that are not specific to GCLA show up on the "Events" tab on Facebook.
- e) Decide which trip(s) fits your budget, your schedule, and your preferred type of fishing. Do you prefer to fish from a boat? A kayak? Do you like to wade fish? Or do you prefer to relax on the bank or fish from a pier?
- f) Participation is limited due to the availability of guides and lodging at select locations.

2) Signing Up and Paying for a GCLA Trip

- a) Trips and events are listed on the "Events" tab on the GCLA Facebook page. Clicking on "Going" DOES NOT reserve your spot for the trip or event. It only gives the trip or event leader an idea of how many people are interested in going and helps them to plan appropriately. This is also where updates will be posted as we get closer to the trip or event date.
- b) Actual sign up and instructions are on the GCLA website under "Club Events". The red "DETAILS" button will take you to the page listing the full details including cost and the link for online payments. **All online payments are to be made through our website not direct through your Paypal App. The website will give you the opportunity to pay by credit card or Paypal.** Payments may also be made by check and mailed to GCLA, P.O. Box 1081, Kemah TX 77565.
- c) Every large group trip will have specific dates that GCLA will start taking deposits to secure your spot on the trip. Spots are filled on a first come, first serve basis and deposits will be taken until all the spots on the trip are filled. Once your deposit is received and your spot reserved, the member is obligated to pay their full portion of the trip by the final payment due date.
- d) Trips may be paid for in 2 payments. The first payment is your deposit and will secure your spot. The second payment is to pay for the balance of your trip. You may pay in full, if you choose at, or before, the first payment due date.
- e) If you pay the deposit for an upcoming trip before the due date is announced, your deposit will be refunded. We want to give everyone a fair chance to secure a spot on the trip of their choice.



- f) When making a payment by check, please include a note with the attendee's full name, trip you are going on, and any other information that will be helpful for the Treasurer so she can apply the payment to the correct trip for the correct person.
- g) There is a pre-determined convenience fee associated with using online payments
- h) All deposits are non-refundable but are transferable. (See #3 for more details)
- i) If there are more ladies that want to go on the trip than there are available spots, the leadership will start a waiting list in case there are any cancellations for the trip. We do this because we understand that emergencies can arise and life happens, but we also want to fill the trip and make it affordable for everyone.

3) Cancelling your spot on a GCLA Trip and Refunds

- a) We understand that life, work, and emergencies can happen at any time. If you have signed up for a trip and cannot go, it is your responsibility to find someone to take your place. Your leadership team will work with you by keeping a waitlist and providing you with those names when the time comes. A deposit may be required to be placed on the waiting list but will be refunded in full after the trip if no spots become available.
- b) Your deposit or complete trip payment is non-refundable through GCLA but is transferable to another member with the approval of the GCLA Leadership Team. Once your deposit is received and a spot reserved, the member is obligated to pay their full portion of the trip by the final payment due date.
If you cancel and find a replacement, your replacement should reimburse you for the payments that you have made. Then you will need to notify the trip leader so they can transfer your spot. Leadership will try to assist in any extenuating circumstances, so please reach out to us, but the primary responsibility falls on the member.
- c) If a situation arises so close to the trip date that you cannot find a replacement in time, your trip funds will not be refunded. The final cost of these trips is calculated far in advance and is based on each member's commitment to filling that spot so that it is affordable for everyone attending.
- d) If your trip is cancelled by leadership because we cannot fill the trip or for other unforeseen circumstances, all payments will be refunded less any non-refundable payments made by GCLA to guides, lodges, rentals, or other vendors.
- e) Any convenience fee charged when making a payment or sending a deposit is non-refundable.

4) Why Do Some Trips Cost More than Others?

- a) The cost of a trip depends on the number of ladies who attend and/or the number of ladies we have the ability to accommodate, as costs are divided equally among all participants. We do our best to take advantage of group discounts when available.
- b) Lodging costs vary. Is the trip 2 nights or 3 nights? We may rent houses, condos, or stay in hotel accommodations. The cost of the area we are staying in may vary as well. For example, Baffin Bay, Texas, prices may not reflect the same costs as a trip to Hackberry, Louisiana.



- c) Other considerations: Is the trip 1 full day of fishing or 2 full days of fishing? If it is a guided fishing trip, normally the cost of guides and bait are included. Tips are not typically included.
- d) The cost of food will vary. Some trips will include a light breakfast, lunch and snacks, and catered dinners. Others may only include snacks and/or lunch with dinner on your own. Increasing grocery prices have had an effect on the bottom line.
- e) Cost of meals and groceries are determined in the planning stage. It is important for you to communicate any food allergies or special dietary needs to your trip leader well before the trip. If we need to provide an alternative food source, this gives us time to accommodate your needs if it is possible. *(If you have a food allergy or special diet, it is always a good idea to bring some of your own food sources in case of unforeseen circumstances such as a caterer cancelling at the last minute.)*
- f) No matter what trip you take, your leadership team will notify you of all the details that are included in the trip with regards to food, lodging, and fishing costs.

5) Travelling to your Destination

- a) Many ladies like to carpool to save on the cost of gas and ride with a buddy. It is the participant's responsibility to set up these travel plans if they are not comfortable driving a long distance alone.
- b) Contact others who are taking the same trip to set up carpooling. Your GCLA leader is not responsible for setting up carpools and most likely will direct you to post your need for a ride on the trip event on Facebook.
- c) As with any road trip, check your tires, water, and oil pressure to ensure your vehicle is road safe.
- d) If you are travelling alone, get the phone number of another member and communicate as you head to your destination.
- e) Make sure you have the correct address. Print out the details of the trip. Your leadership team will post trip details that includes the address with lodging and food details.

6) Lodging and Sleeping Arrangements

- a) Lodging is secured early in the trip process based on the number of ladies attending and varies by accommodation.
- b) Leadership does their best to accommodate every member comfortably. Some people snore. Some people wear CPaP masks. Some people want to be paired with friends. All of those requests are taken into account, but we cannot guarantee that there will be enough beds, or rooms, to do that on every trip. It's always a good idea to have ear plugs or ear buds to listen to your own music or white noise at bedtime.
- c) If you know you have a special need, such as the ones listed above, contact your trip leader. This will give them much better information on who to pair together when working out sleeping arrangements. Leadership does not know every members sleep habits, but we will try to make everyone comfortable when possible.
- d) Sleeping arrangements can consist of twin, full, king, queen, and bunk beds. Some include couches, cots, pull-out beds, etc. Members may be asked to sleep in the same bed with another member where king and queen beds exist.



- e) If someone absolutely cannot sleep in the same bed with another person, they can ask to trade beds with someone or they can choose to sleep on a couch or pallet on the floor. When we are renting a house or condo, beds are limited to what is available.
- f) Not all fishing lodging is luxurious. Some fish camps may be more primitive than the lodging on other trips. In this case, ladies may be sleeping on couches or cots and sharing a bathroom, etc. Your trip leader will notify you of the accommodations prior to making your decision to go on the trip.

7) Fishing Licenses and Fishing Guidelines

- a) Every member is responsible having a valid fishing license when going on a GCLA fishing trip. If you are travelling out of state, such as on our Louisiana trip, you will be required to acquire one in that state.
- b) Licenses can be purchase online or locally in every state. The type of license you need will determine where you are fishing, how many days you will be fishing, and the type of fish you will be catching. Some fish and marine life require special tags to be added to the license. If your trip leader does not mention it in the trip details, please ask. We just assume that everyone knows they need a license whether you're fishing inshore or offshore in anywhere in the U.S.A.
- c) Wherever you are fishing, it is imperative to know the Fish and Wildlife regulations for that area. Know the min/max lengths and bag limits on species of fish for that specific area. For example, trout lengths and bag limits for the upper and lower Texas coast are different. It can get confusing, and you don't want to end up with a ticket from a Game Warden. Every state has their own Fish & Game rules and they can be found online.
- d) GCLA members are expected to follow all Parks and Wildlife fishing regulations no matter where you are fishing and especially if you are participating in a GCLA event. If you are not sure about fish lengths and bag limits for the event, you can google them or ask another member.
- e) Members who are found keeping fish that are not regulation size will be taken aside for discussion or another member may report it to a leadership member to discuss. We understand that some of the laws can be confusing. However, if the member continues to ignore those regulations, they will be asked to leave the event and may risk losing their membership with GCLA altogether. Each case will be reviewed by Leadership on an individual basis.
- f) As a member of GCLA, all members are required to follow all state laws regarding fish and game. There are no exceptions.

8) Fishing Guides

- a) Your trip leader has secured professional fishing Guides based on the number of ladies attending and the type of fishing you are going to be doing.
- b) Guide fees and bait are normally included in the cost of the trip. However, there are times when bait has not been included in the fees. Your trip leader will let you know that well before the trip.



- c) Guide tips are rarely included in the cost of the trip. Tips should range from \$35-40+ per person. Some tip more because of the great experience they had with their Guide whether they caught fish or not. I can assure you that your Guide will appreciate it!
- d) You should let your leader know before the trip if you will be using your own fishing equipment or if you will need the guide to supply fishing rods and gear. This helps your Guide plan so you can have a great day on the water.
- e) Bring a PFD (Personal Floatation Device) if you're not comfortable being in a boat without a life jacket. You can also ask your Guide for one before you leave the dock. Or just ask where your Guide stores them on the boat so you will feel more comfortable; especially if you do not know how to swim. It's also a good idea to let your guide or other ladies that you are fishing with know if you are not a good swimmer. We don't judge.
- f) Most Guides will have bottled water onboard for their customers but it is always good to ask first. They also make room for your lunch, snacks, and other beverages that you may want to take fishing. Please be mindful of limited space and only bring what you plan on eating and drinking. If you bring alcohol, please drink responsibly for the safety of yourself and others fishing around you. Remember that sunshine, summer heat and alcohol don't mix well. Stay hydrated to stay safe.
- g) Communicate with your Guide. Let them know what you're comfortable with, i.e. putting your reel handle on the right instead of the left. Do you need help baiting your line or tying hooks? Taking a fish off? Let them know your strengths and weaknesses so they know how to serve you on their boat. Your guide is a wealth of information so ask question and create a learning experience. And please remember, it is their boat. Try not to slam compartments shut or do anything unsafe while on their boat.
- h) Please remember that fish do not always cooperate and your Guide will be doing their best to catch fish. In the event that the fish do not cooperate, please treat your Guide with utmost respect. They are as disappointed as you are that the fish aren't biting as well as they normally do.
- i) If you have an uncomfortable experience with any Guide while out on the water, you are to report it to leadership immediately.

9) Fishing on your own while on a GCLA Trip

- a) Members have the opportunity to fish on their way to and from a trip, and during down time on a trip. It is the members responsibility to have their own fishing equipment if you choose to fish during any of these times.
- b) Scheduled activities with the group are not considered down time and members are encouraged to participate.
- c) Some members bring their own kayaks and others have secured another day of fishing with a Guide for one more day of fishing after the trip ends.
- d) The Oak Island Retreat is usually the only trip in which fishing is done from a bank or pier but members may secure their own Guide if they would like to fish in the bay. Kayaks are encouraged on this trip. Leadership is not responsible for finding guides for this trip.



10) What do I need to bring on my GCLA Fishing Trip?

- a) Check the weather a few days before your trip. This will indicate what kind of clothing you will want to bring.
- b) Is it going to be cold? Being on a boat during cold weather is much colder than being on land. You can expect a -10-degree difference in temperature. So, layer, layer, layer. Consider purchasing hand and foot warmers for much colder temperatures. A good waterproof jacket that is secured by your wading belt will keep your coat from floating up on your waders and keep more heat in.
- c) Is it going to be hot? A good hat, sunglasses, sunblock, a long sleeve fishing shirt, and a neck gaiter that you can dip in ice water can work wonders in the hot sun. Staying properly hydrated is key on hot days.
- d) Fishing rods and tackle are optional on most GCLA guided fishing trips since your Guides have no problem providing equipment. However, most members bring 1 or 2 rods to fish with on a guided trip or during breaks throughout the weekend. Or if you're planning on "fishing your way home." Most carry a light tackle box with various rigs, a bait bucket, and an ice chest for icing down their catch.
- e) Are you wade fishing? Most guides will let you know what types of wading equipment they provide such as waders, boots, rods, etc. Summer wading and equipment can be different from what you use during the winter. Let your trip leader know what you will need from the Guide.
 - i) **Summer Wading:** You may hear someone say they like to "wet wade." This means they are not wearing waterproof waders in the water. Most wet wading is done using a pair of fishing pants or polyester leggings that dry quickly.
 - ii) **Winter Wading:** Temperatures in the water can get very cold. Having a good pair of waders with built-in wade socks that are roomy enough to layer clothing in is great waterproof protection.
 - iii) **Wading Gear:**
 - (1) Protecting your legs is important. Wearing ray guards or having some sort of protection such as Bart's Bay Boots will protect your shins from an injury should you step on a stingray while out wading.
 - (2) Comfortable wading boots is a must! They protect your feet from oyster reefs and other debris that might be on the floor of the bays. Sizing on wade boots depends on your preference. For example, if you consistently wear waders, you'll want your boots to be 2 sizes too big to accommodate your wade socks that are built into your waders. In summer, if you do not wear waders, you may want to have a second pair that fit your normal size. If you don't want the expense of 2 different sizes of wading boots, you can always plan for the waders and wear socks when you're wet wading to take up space in the larger boot.
 - (3) Wade belts and wading slings are made to help you carry extra tackle, your wading net, and pliers on them so you can net your fish, change out hooks, lures, and can hold your rod when you need your hands. Some prefer belts in the winter because they keep your jacket from floating up and getting in the way. Others prefer slings in the summer because they are more light weight and are not as bulky. It is purely each person's preference.



- (4) Personal Floatation Devices (PFD) are a smart piece of safety equipment to wear especially if you are wading in unfamiliar areas and if you are new to wading. Some PFD's offer both automatic and manual deployment in one vest. They are designed to inflate when you submerge in water. If you are fishing an area that has tidal current and a shifting bottom, it is a smart idea to wear one. If you are fishing at night or kayaking, it is a MUST HAVE. They are not as bulky as a regular life jacket and are a simple addition to your wade gear in summer or winter.
 - (5) Are you wading with live bait or artificial lures? You will need a live bait bucket with a 3-5ft string and clip to attach to your wade belt. If you're fishing with artificial, you just need to make sure that your wading belt has plenty of lures to so that you can change them out if the fish you're catching tear them up or if you want to try a different color.
 - (6) Stringers are the most popular way to keep the fish you catch while wading. They keep your fish alive by keeping them submerged in the water. Stringers vary in lengths. Some fishing areas have predator fish that will try to eat the fish on your stringer, so you'll want your stringer length to be a comfortable distance from you and loose enough that if a shark strikes your stringer, it will come loose.
 - (7) Fish bags are another popular way to keep your fish alive while you're wade fishing. These are great deterrents for predator fish but can be bulky. They are also great for storing your wade equipment in while you are travelling or moving from spot to spot.
- f) Bring a heart for learning! Your GCLA sisters love to help teach and coach on fishing and fishing gear on subjects such as tying fishing knots, tying on hooks, casting, catching and reeling in fish on specific rigs, etc. It is a great opportunity to expand your knowledge and learn something new!

11) GCLA OUTDOOR EVENTS

a) **Special Training Events**

- i) GCLA is committed to training and coaching women in fishing. We have various events throughout the year where ladies will be able to receive training and coaching on fishing and fishing related equipment.
- ii) Some of these events will have limited space available to participants.
- iii) Special training events are listed on the "Events" tab on the GCLA Facebook page. Clicking on "Going" DOES NOT reserve your spot for the trip or event. It only gives the trip or event leader an idea of how many people are interested in going and helps them to plan appropriately. This is also where updates will be posted as we get closer to the event date.
- iv) Actual sign up and instructions are on the GCLA website under "Club Events". The red "DETAILS" button will take you to the page listing the full details including cost, if any, and the link for online payments. **All online payments are to be made through our website not through your PayPal app. Credit cards are accepted.** Payments may also be made by check and mailed to GCLA, P.O. Box 1081, Kemah TX 77565.



- v) It is important to read all of the information posted. If there is limited space, your event leader will always request confirmations from all attendees. It may be a text or call request, an email, or some other way to confirm that you are going to the event. The goal is to make sure all spots are filled and start a waitlist if necessary.
- vi) Safety of everyone is the #1 goal for every event. If a group is too large, safety may be compromised which is why we will limit participation in some training events.
- vii) We will also have special guests invited to some events who will demonstrate their products and teach us how to use their equipment. Or the special guest may do a presentation and speak about fishing related topics.
- viii) Meet & Greets are a free event that is open to the public. We will have public speakers, captains, and other fishing related activities that the whole family can enjoy! Information on where and when a Meet & Greet will occur will be posted on the GCLA website and in the EVENTS tab on Facebook.

b) Online Tournaments

- i) Online Tournaments are fun way for members to catch fish and compete against other members for cash prizes. The online tournaments usually run 5-6 weeks. All participants must be paid members of Gulf Coast Lady Anglers.
- ii) There are 2 online tournaments. One in the summer and one in the fall.
- iii) Participation is easy! You just CATCH, MEASURE, PHOTO & EMAIL. Catch your fish, put your fish on a Check-It-Stik with the assigned item, photograph your fish, and then email your photo. A Check-It-Stik is required for this tournament- at least 30".
- iv) All information regarding the tournament sign-up, rules, and instructions will be posted on the event in the Facebook EVENTS page.

c) GCLA IN-PERSON TOURNAMENT (Fall "FISH ON!" Tournament)

- i) Our in-person tournament is relatively new and growing. This may be an individual tournament or a team event for GCLA paid members.
- ii) Our goal is to grow this tournament and to allow the public to participate. More information to come as it develops.

12) Medical Emergencies

- a) Safety is the key to enjoying any trip or event. In the event of a medical emergency, GCLA Leadership and Members may assist by calling 911. Sick or injured members assume personal responsibility for any accident or health issue that should arise on a trip or at an event.
- b) Trip Leaders will have emergency contact information for every person attending a GCLA trip or member event and will contact the designated person if and when it is deemed necessary.
- c) Members should keep a copy of their medical insurance cards and list of current medications handy in the event of an emergency or accident.
- d) Each medical emergency or health issue that interrupts a trip or event will be handled by the Leadership team on an individual basis.