



HORIZONS FLY FISHING PROGRAM



The Adaptive Outdoor Education Center kicked off session one of the Horizons Fly Fishing program with four anglers of varying abilities. Working with our program partner, Confluence Collective, participants learned about environmental topics such as entomology, Leave No Trace Principles, conservation, how to read water, and natural spaces and who lives there. We also practiced casting and how to properly handle fish with Keep Fish Wet resources. We learned how to tie our own woolly bugger flies thanks to our friends at HMM Visers and we tried our hand at a few important knots used in fly fishing such as the surgeon loop and handshake loop knot.

This six-week program concluded with a 3 day, 2 night retreat at the AOEC in Carrabassett Valley. During the early mornings and days the Anglers put their newly learned skills to the test out on the water and at night we gathered around the table and shared fishing stories of big catches and bites from the day. The friendships and bonds that developed from this program far outweigh any fish that were caught!

We would like to say **THANK YOU** to the Carrabassett Valley Outdoor Association for helping make this program possible. We would also like to thank Cindy Foster for taking the time to join us for dinner! The participants loved the opportunity to share their experience with the program with her. There are many perceived barriers to the sport of fly fishing and we are incredibly thankful to be able to offer this opportunity to the population we serve.