

May 23, 2013

News Release

*For Immediate Release*

### **Kids to learn fishing for free Saturday, June 1**

The Springfield-Greene County Park Board, the Missouri Department of Conservation and Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World host the 32nd Annual Kids Fishing Fun Day, Saturday, June 1, at Sportsman's Park, 2500 E. Kearney St., Springfield.

Kids age 3-13 may register for one of two 90-minute sessions: 8:30 or 10 a.m. All children must be accompanied by an adult, and must supply their own rod, reel, bait and stringer for the fish.

This free event is designed to teach how to fish, and encourage them to put their new skills to work throughout the summer, including the upcoming MDC Free Fishing Weekend. The Sportsman's Park fishing pond has been fully stocked with channel catfish and hybrid sunfish, making it easy for children to catch fish. Each child may catch and keep up to four fish. MDC staff will clean one fish per child, and teach kids how to clean their other fish.

Kids Fishing Fun Day activities include:

- Meet Larry 'Doc' Segar from the Bass Pro NITRO Pro Fishing Team
- Casting practice
- Sit in a real pro fishing boat
- One hour of fishing at the fully stocked Sportsman's Park fishing pond
- Fish weigh-in
- First fish photos
- Instructional fish cleaning
- Prizes
- Free soft drinks provided by Ozarks Coca-Cola/Dr Pepper Bottling Company

Participants will go home with simple recipes for frying, baking or grilling their catch, as well as more information on the MDC Free Fishing Weekend, June 8-9, when Missourians throughout the state may fish without a license.

In case of rain, Kids Fishing Fun Day will be rescheduled for the following day, Sunday, June 2, same time and location.

This event is free but registration is required at 417-864-1049. Registration is also available on-site the morning of the event at Sportsman's Park, 2500 E. Kearney St., Springfield.

For media inquiries, call: Anne-Mary McGrath, Special Events Administrator, Springfield-Greene County Park Board, at 417-864-1338 or 417-353-3514; Francis Skalicky, Missouri Department of Conservation Media Specialist, at 417-895-6881, ext. 1641; or Jenny Fillmer

Edwards, Public Information Administrator, Springfield-Greene County Park Board, at 417-874-2176 or 417-224-5510.