**2020 Virtual Crappie Skill-a-thon and**

**Educational Opportunities**

**Species**

**Crappie**: White and black

See link below to learn how to identify specific fish species in Texas.

<https://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/water/aquaticspecies/inland.phtml>

**Levels of Skill-a-thon Participation**

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| **Species** | **Level** | **Participation** |
| Crappie | State-wide | Individual and/or team |
|  | District (2, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11) | Individual and/or team |
|  | Big Crappie | State individual, state team, district individual, district team |

**Schedule**

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| **Species** | **Dates** | **Fishing Times** |
| Crappie | April 11, 18, 25 | 8:00 am – 3:00 pm |

**Location**

* Fish anywhere permitted by law (freshwater, ponds, stock tanks, rivers, lakes, etc.).
* Boats are not required.
* Post entry pictures for judging on Facebook during specified dates and times.

**Safety and State Fishing Regulations**

* Be sure to follow all Texas regulations regarding fishing licenses, bag limits, length requirements and other rules <https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/>
* Each 4-H family entered is responsible for the safety of youth anglers during the skill-a-thon.

**Educational Opportunities**

* 4-H members that join the Facebook 2020 4-H Fishing group, will have the opportunity to view videos from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and Texas Parks and Wildlife on using fishing gear, selecting lures and other topics of interest.
* **Schedule of Educational Opportunities**
	+ Monday: Fishing Techniques and Tips
	+ Tuesday: Cooking with Crappie: Healthy Food Demo and Recipe
	+ Wednesday: A Visit with the Game Warden
	+ Thursday: Fishing Safety
	+ Friday: Fun Facts and 10 for 10 Crappie Game
	+ Saturday: Fishing Skill-a-thon

**Entry Requirements**

* + Register on 4-H Connect beginning March 23, 2020 at <https://texas.4honline.com>
* After registering on 4-H Connect, participants must join the Facebook 4-H Fishing group by clicking [here](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1202432833284039/) or going to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1202432833284039/>

at least 2 days before the skill-a-thon begins.

**Entry Fees**

* + 4-H youth, including Clover Kids, may enter the statewide, district and big crappie skill-a-thons. Participation at the state level is REQUIRED (individual and/or team).
	+ Teams are comprised of 3 or 4 members of any 4-H age division (mixed teams are permitted).

**REQUIRED ENTRY**

**State Events - $25 per individual per event**

* + - **State individual** – Exhibit your skills against all entered 4-H’ers across the state.
		- **State team –** Exhibit your skills as a 3-4 member team against all entered 4-H’ers across the state.

**OPTIONAL ENTRY**

**District Events - $10 per individual per event**

* + - **District individual –** Exhibit your skills against other registered district participants for separate awards and prizes.
		- **District team** – Exhibit your skills as a 3-4 member team against other registered district participants for separate awards and prizes.

**OPTIONAL ENTRY**

**Big Crappie Events - $5 per individual per event**

* + - **State Big Crappie individual –** Exhibit your skills against all entered 4-H’ers across the state for the biggest crappie.
		- **State Big Crappie team –** Exhibit your skills as a 3-4 member team against all entered 4-H’ers across the state for the biggest crappie.
		- **District Big Crappie individual –** Exhibit your skills against all entered district participants for the biggest crappie.
		- **District Big Crappie team -** Exhibit your skills as a 3-4 member team against other registered district participants for the biggest crappie.

**Registration Deadlines**

* + Entry to 4-H Connect is due by **April 8, 2020** to participate in the April 11th skill-a-thon. Only those registered on 4-H Connect by the deadline will be eligible to participate.
	+ 4-H Connect will reopen on April 13th for registration for the April 18th skill-a-thon (you only need to register again, if you did not register for the initial skill-a-thon).
	+ 4-H Connect will reopen on April 20th for registration for the April 25th skill-a-thon (you only need to register again, if you did not register for the initial or second skill-a-thon).

**Recognition**

* Presentation of awards will take place at county level after May 4, 2020.
	+ 1st – 3rd places will be presented a rosette and a prize to be determined by 4-H Fishing committee.
* Entry via 4-H Connect gives permission to the District office to use the participant’s name and photograph as needed for marketing and promotion purposes.

**Skill-a-thon and Participation Rules**

**Crappie Skill-a-thon (individual and/or team event)**

1. **Event Dates**: April 11, 18 and 25.
2. **Times**: 8:00 am to 3:00 pm - postings before or after times will be disqualified.
3. **Team**: A team is comprised of a minimum of 3 members and a maximum of 4 members.
4. **Crappie Species**: White and Black.
5. **Posting Limits**: You may catch as many Crappie as possible and post your longest 10. Your longest 10 Crappie make up the winning length. Weights will be reviewed after each event and cumulatively for overall results.
6. **Virtual Participation Criteria**:
	* Photograph of fish and card must be posted to the Facebook group page (2020 4-H Fishing) between 8:00 am and 3:00 pm. You must receive approval to join this group before the skill-a-thon begins. Photographs posted before or after skill-a-thon times will be non-scoring. Note: This may mean that you change locations before time is up to ensure you have internet service.
	* Photograph must be able to be seen and measurement on board must also be legible. You may hold your fish on the board, just be sure to not cover the mouth and tail with anything that blocks these views.
	* Fish must be photographed laying on a **Check-It-Stik brand measuring board** in addition to a completed note card or the optional form on page 5. Check-It-Stiks can be purchased at Academy, on-line and at other fishing gear stores.
	* Mouth of fish must be closed, touching the board and tail pinched. If measurement cannot be read from photograph, the entry will be considered non-scoring. See example below:

Check-It-Stik



* + You will be given an eight letter/digit code for each event to display on an index card, or use the preprinted form on page 5, with your fish photograph. The code will be revealed one hour before the skill-a-thon begins. It will be posted to the Facebook 2020 4-H Fishing group that morning.
	+ **Card must be in photograph with fish on Check-it-Stik.**
	+ Index card must have District, County, youth name, fish number, and eight-digit code. Cards that cannot be read will be disqualified. Suggestion: Place each card in a ziplock bag so it remains dry and ink does not run.
	+ If participating in a team, place the name of angler that caught the fish on the top line (Team Member #1).
1. **Optional Big Crappie Skill-a-thon**:
* Youth **entered** in the Optional Big Crappie skill-a-thon will exhibit their skills individually against other 4-H anglers across the state. Must be entered in 4-H Connect before start of skill-a-thon.
* Awards/prizes will be given to the top 3 big crappie from entire skill-a-thon.
	+ Length is measured in inches from mouth to tip of tail, not the fork.

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| Please print – must be legible!District \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Fish Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_8-digit code: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (posted 1 hour before skill-a-thon on FB 2020 4-H Fishing group page)Individual Angler Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*(Complete below if registered as a team)*Angler Name 1: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Angler Name 2: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Angler Name 3: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Angler Name 4: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |