

TEXAS 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

DATE: February 25, 2021
TO: All County Extension Agents
FROM: Jheri-Lynn McSwain, Ph.D.
District 5 4-H Extension Program Specialist
SUBJECT: 2021 4-H Virtual Bass Fishing Skill-a-thon hosted by District 5

District 5 is pleased to announce a 4-H Virtual Bass Fishing Skill-a-thon to be hosted statewide and within districts desiring to participate. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at 903-834-6191 or via email at jlmcswain@ag.tamu.edu

- See skill-a-thon information within this memo for county agents.
- Information for 4-H families on skill-a-thon guidelines, schedule of events, and rules of play are attached for distribution.
- Bass Skill-a-thon will be open to any enrolled 4-H member or Clover Kid across the state.
- A marketing flyer is attached for your use. As this is a virtual skill-a-thon with fishing pictures to be posted on Facebook for judging, be sure to add this flyer to your social media outlets and county websites.

General Information

What is a Skill-a-thon?

The Virtual Bass Skill-a-thon is comprised of two parts:

1. **Learn and Earn Educational Opportunities** – to provide information in which youth participants and adults can gain knowledge on fishing tips and techniques, healthy cooking with fish, safety situations, laws and regulations, and trivia fun. These opportunities will be posted on the 2021 4-H Fishing Facebook page. No fee to participate.
2. **Fishing and Wishing to Win Tournament** – scheduled dates for youth to fish at their location with the chance of winning weekly and overall tournament awards and prizes based upon fish length. See entry fees below for participation.

Participation Requirements

- Be enrolled in 4-H as a youth member or Clover Kid for the 2020-2021 year.
- Join the 2021 4-H Fishing Facebook page by clicking [here](#) or going to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1202432833284039/>
 - Youth may use an adult's Facebook account to join and participate.

Entry Limitations

- There are no limits on the number of individuals or teams entered by county.

Part I: Learn and Earn Information

Educational Opportunities

- Posted on the following days for three weeks on the 2021 4-H Fishing Facebook page:
 - Monday: Fishing Techniques and Tips
 - Tuesday: Cooking with Bass: Healthy Food Demo and Recipe
 - Wednesday: A Visit with the Game Warden
 - Thursday: Fishing Safety
 - Friday: Fun Facts, Trivia and 10 for 10 Catfish Game




- Participate to LEARN new knowledge and EARN prizes! Weekly trivia contests posted on Fridays offer anglers the opportunity to win additional prizes based upon participation in the Monday-Thursday education components.

Part II: Fishing Tournament Information

Registration

- Registration will open on 4-H Online at 8:00 a.m. on **March 1, 2021**. Go to 4-H Online at <https://texas.4honline.com> and select 2021 4-H Virtual Fishing - Bass from the event list and submit your entry fee(s).
- Entry to 4-H Online is due by **April 8, 2021** to participate in the April 10th tournament. Only those registered on 4-H Online by the deadline will be eligible to participate.
- 4-H Online will reopen again on April 12th for registration for the April 17th tournament (you only need to register if you did not register for the first tournament) and close at 11:59 pm on April 16th.
- 4-H Online will reopen again on April 19th for registration for the April 24th tournament (you only need to register if you did not register for the first or second tournament) and close at 11:59 pm on April 23rd.

Entry Fees

- 4-H youth members, including Clover Kids, may enter the statewide, district and Big Bass tournaments.
 - Clover Kids participate for bragging rights and earning ribbons. There is no fee for their participation, however, they must be registered on 4-H Online.
 - Participation at the state level is **REQUIRED** (individual and/or team).
 - District and Big Bass entries are optional.
-  Competing teams are comprised of 2 to 4 members of any 4-H age division (Junior, Intermediate or Senior – see below for Clover Kid team participation).
 - Mixed 4-H age-division teams are permitted.
 - Teams with members from other counties are also permitted.
 - Clover Kids may participate on a team; however, they are eligible for placing only within this designate group and will be provided ribbons for their participation.
- Three separate fishing dates are provided (April 10, 17 and 24).
 - Pay one time entry fee and then compete by fishing one, two or all three dates.
 - Prizes will be awarded for each fishing date and overall tournament.

REQUIRED ENTRY

State Events - \$25 per individual per category (you must enter one of these categories)

Categories:

- **State individual** – Exhibit your skills against all entered 4-H'ers across the state.
- **State team** – Exhibit your skills as a 2-4 member team against all entered 4-H'ers across the state.

OPTIONAL ENTRY

District Events - \$15 per individual per category

Categories:

- **District individual** – Exhibit your skills against other registered district participants in YOUR district for separate awards and prizes.
- **District team** – Exhibit your skills as a 2-4 member team against other registered district participants in YOUR district for separate awards and prizes.

OPTIONAL ENTRY

Big Bass Events - \$10 per individual per category

Categories:

- **State Big Bass individual** – Exhibit your skills against all entered 4-H'ers across the state for the biggest bass.
- **State Big Bass team** – Exhibit your skills as a 2-4 member team against all entered 4-H'ers across the state for the biggest bass.
- **District Big Bass individual** – Exhibit your skills against all entered district participants in YOUR district for the biggest bass.
- **District Big Bass team** - Exhibit your skills as a 2-4 member team against other registered district participants in YOUR district for the biggest bass.

Example Registration Fees

- Registered in state event (required) as an individual - \$25
- Registered in optional district event as an individual - \$15
- Registered in optional big bass event as an individual - \$10
- **TOTAL Participation Fees \$50**

Fishing Schedule

- **Dates:** April 10, 17 and 24 (you may participate in one, two or all three fishing dates).
- **Times:** 8:00 am to 3:00 pm - postings before or after contest times will mean a disqualified post.

Participation Species for ALL Events

- Bass of any of the following varieties: Largemouth, smallmouth, spotted, Guadalupe
- You may enter all of one variety or a combination of varieties for judging.
- Maximum of 5 bass caught by registered youth may be entered for judging.
- See link below to learn how to identify specific fish species in Texas.
<https://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/water/aquaticspecies/inland.phtml>

Supplies Needed for Participation

- Rod and reel
- Bait or lure
- Phone or tablet with internet
- Official Check-it-Stik® (can be purchased at Academy stores or via online shopping venues)
- **First 200 registered 4-H members by March 12th will receive a FREE official Check-it-Stik®.**



Location

- Fish anywhere permitted by law (freshwater, ponds, stock tanks, rivers, lakes, etc.).
- Fishing from a pier, edge of pond/lake/river, or boat is allowed for this event as long as the location is permitted by law.

Awards and Prizes

- Awards for State entries will be mailed to your county Extension office after completion of skill-a-thon.
- Awards for District events will be provided by your District office.
- All awards and prizes to be determined by the 4-H Fishing committee. (**Awards are determined by the number of individuals/teams registered for this tournament.**)
- If registered in the optional State “Big Bass” event, the top placing big fish (individual and team) will be presented one replica of the winning fish. (Winner will be determined by fish length and girth). Replicas will be sent to county offices 6-9 months after tournament.
- Prizes will also be awarded for each date of fishing.
- Clover Kids participate for bragging rights and earning ribbons.
- Entry via 4-H Online gives permission to the District 5 office to use the participant’s name and photograph as needed for marketing and promotion purposes.