

TEXAS 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

DATE: April 13, 2021
TO: County Extension Agents
FROM: Jheri-Lynn McSwain, Ph.D.
4-H Extension Program Specialist – District 5
SUBJECT: 2021 4-H Virtual Crappie Skill-a-thon hosted by District 5

District 5 is pleased to announce a 4-H Virtual Crappie Fishing Skill-a-thon to be hosted statewide and within districts desiring to participate. This memo is an internal document for agents and county staff. Please distribute the Crappie Rules of Play to your 4-H families. A marketing flyer is attached for your use. **As this is a virtual skill-a-thon with fishing pictures to be posted on Facebook, be sure to add this flyer to your social media outlets and county websites.**

General Information

What is a Skill-a-thon?

The Virtual Crappie 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](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1202432833284039/) 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.
- Note that timely COUNTY approval is imperative to allow youth participation in 4-H events. The purpose of a county level approval is for agents to review the entry and ensure the youth member is eligible to participate in a particular event, via contest rules, age division, or other restrictions.

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.**)
- 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.

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 Crappie: 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 **April 1, 2021**. Go to 4-H Online at <https://texas.4honline.com> and select 2021 4-H Virtual Fishing - Crappie from the event list and submit your entry fee(s).
- Entry to 4-H Online is due by **April 29, 2021** to participate in the May 8th tournament. Only those registered on 4-H Online by the deadline will be eligible to participate.

New!

- After each tournament event date closes, changes to registration as an individual to team or big fish cannot be modified. Ensure you are registered in each event **BEFORE** the tournament date. **There are NO refunds from the state office for incorrectly entering an event.**
- 4-H Online will reopen again on May 10th for registration for the May 15th tournament (you only need to register if you did not register for the first tournament) and close at 11:59 pm on May 14th.
- 4-H Online will reopen again on May 17th for registration for the May 22nd tournament (you only need to register if you did not register for the first or second tournament) and close at 11:59 pm on May 21st.

Fishing Schedule

- **Dates:** May 8, 15 and 22 (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

- Crappie of any of the following varieties: white or black.
- You may enter all of one variety or a combination of varieties for judging.
- Maximum of 10 crappie 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 Tournament 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 50 registered 4-H members by April 23rd will receive a FREE official Check-it-Stik[®] (you are eligible if you did not receive one during 2021 Bass program).**

New!


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.

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 tournaments.

Entry Fees

- 4-H youth members, including Clover Kids, may enter the statewide, district and Big Crappie 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 Crappie 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 (May 8, 15, 22).
 - 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. Each team member must register and submit their participation fee on 4-H Online to compete as a team.

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. Each team member must register and submit their participation fee on 4-H Online to compete as a team.

OPTIONAL ENTRY

Big Crappie Events - \$10 per individual per category

Categories:

- **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 2-4 member team against all entered 4-H'ers across the state for the biggest Crappie. Each team member must register and submit their participation fee on 4-H Online to compete as a team.

- **District Big Crappie individual** – Exhibit your skills against all entered district participants in YOUR district for the biggest Crappie.
- **District Big Crappie team** - Exhibit your skills as a 2-4 member team against other registered district participants in YOUR district for the biggest Crappie. Each team member must register and submit their participation fee on 4-H Online to compete as a team.

Example Registration Fees

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

2021 Crappie Tournament Card

Please print – must be legible!

District _____ County _____

Fish Number (1 –10) _____

6-digit code: _____

(posted 1 hour before tournament on 2021 4-H Fishing Facebook group page)

Angler Name 1: _____

(Team member that caught this fish if registered on a team)

(Complete below if registered as a team)

Angler Name 2: _____

Angler Name 3: _____

Angler Name 4: _____