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News Release

For Immediate Release

Kids Fishing Day Offers Fun, Free Education

The Springfield-Greene County Park Board, the Missouri Department of Conservation and Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World host the 31th Annual Kids Fishing Fun Day, Saturday, June 2, at Sportsman's Park, 2500 E. Kearney St., Springfield.

This free event is designed to teach kids aged 3 to 13 how to fish, and to encourage them to put their new skills to use during the MDC Free Fishing Weekend, June 9-10. Kids may register for one of two 90-minute sessions: 8:30 a.m. 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.

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 keep up to four fish. MDC staff will clean one fish per child, while instructing each kid how to clean their other fish.

Kids Fishing Fun Day activities include:

- Casting practice
- Meet a Bass Pro Shops professional fisherman
- 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 (one fish only)
- Prize drawings
- 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 9-10, when Missourians may fish throughout the state without a license.

In case of rain, Kids Fishing Fun Day will be rescheduled for the following day, Sunday, June 3, same time and location.

This event is free but registration is required. Register at 417-864-1049 or register the morning of the event at Sportsman's Park.

For media inquiries, call Anne-Mary McGrath, Special Events Administrator, Springfield-Greene County Park Board, at 417-864-1338; 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.