

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **2017 Labor Day Mentored Youth Fishing Day**

#### **1. What is the Labor Day Mentored Youth Fishing Day?**

The Labor Day Mentored Youth Fishing Day provided by the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC) is an exclusive fishing opportunity for young anglers and their adult mentors on select Panfish Enhancement Waters. On **Labor Day, Monday, September 4, 2016** mentored youth participants (adults and kids) may keep panfish fish under the minimum size. These listed waters will be open to all anglers and other Commonwealth inland regulations will apply on this day.

#### **2. Who can participate?**

Youth anglers (less than 16 years of age) must obtain a Mentored Youth Fishing Permit or Voluntary Youth Fishing License from the Commission and be accompanied by a properly licensed adult angler in order to participate. Anglers 16 years of age or older (adult anglers) must possess a valid Pennsylvania fishing license and be accompanied by a youth (less than 16 years of age) who has obtained a permit or voluntary license from the Commission. A trout stamp is not required.

#### **3. Why is the youth required to have a Mentored Youth Fishing Permit or Voluntary Youth Fishing License?**

The PFBC is using the Pennsylvania Automated License Service (PALS) to issue youth permits and voluntary licenses. Issuance of permits and licenses through PALS allows the Commission to collect and manage information regarding youth anglers. Specifically, this process provides the Commission with more customer data for better assessment of lifelong fishing license buying habits and to develop programs designed to retain anglers. All revenues from the sale of voluntary youth fishing licenses will be dedicated to PFBC youth programs. For each fishing license sold, the Commission is also eligible to receive approximately \$5 in funding from the Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Program administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

#### **4. Where can I get a youth fishing permit or voluntary license?**

Mentored Youth Fishing Permits and Voluntary Youth Fishing Licenses are available at the more than 900 fishing license-issuing agents (<http://www.fishandboat.com/Fish/FishingLicense/Pages/FishingLicenseAgents.aspx>) and online at [www.GoneFishingPa.com](http://www.GoneFishingPa.com). In order to obtain the permit or voluntary license, the youth's address, social security number, date of birth, height, and eye color must be provided at the time of the transaction. Phone number and e-mail address is optional and may be added to the customer's profile later, by following the instructions in The Outdoor Shop at [www.GoneFishingPa.com](http://www.GoneFishingPa.com).

Vouchers for the voluntary license are available at the more than 900 license-issuing agents and online. A voucher acts as a gift card and does not require any personal information at the time of sale. Clubs, organizations, businesses, and individuals who are interested in promoting youth angling can purchase quantities of voluntary youth license vouchers to distribute to children. Personal information is required at the time of redemption and a customer identification number (CID) is issued.

#### **5. How much does a permit or voluntary license cost?**

The Mentored Youth Fishing Permit is free. The Voluntary Youth Fishing License is \$1, plus the issuing agent fee and transaction fee, for a total of \$2.90. For each fishing license sold, the Commission is eligible to receive approximately \$5 in funding from the Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Program administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which provides funds to states based on a formula that includes the number of licenses a state sells. All revenues earned from a Voluntary Youth Fishing License are dedicated to youth programs.

## **6. What waters are included?**

For Labor Day 2017, the 19 Panfish Enhancement Waters are included in the Mentored Youth Fishing Day program.

- Blue Marsh Reservoir (Berks County)
- Beaverdam Run Reservoir, Hinkston Run Reservoir, and Wilmore Dam (Cambria County)
- Foster Joseph Sayers Lake at Bald Eagle State Park (Centre County)
- Chambers Lake (Chester County)
- Lake Chillisquaque (Montour County)
- Bradys Lake and Gouldsboro Lake (Monroe County)
- Lower and Upper Promised Land Lakes at Promised Land State Park (Pike County)
- Quemahoning Reservoir (Somerset County)
- Cross Creek Lake, Peters Township Lake (Res #2) (Washington County)
- Bridgeport Reservoir, Indian Lake, Lower Twin Lake, Northmoreland Lake, and Upper Twin Lake (Westmoreland County)

The lakes will be open to all anglers but only mentored youth participants (adults and youth) may keep panfish fish under the minimum size.

## **7. What is the creel limit?**

Only mentored youth participants (adults and youth) may keep panfish under the minimum size. The daily limit is 20 for each species included in the Panfish Enhancement Regulations (Sunfish, Crappie, Yellow Perch).

## **8. Why are the adult mentors allowed to fish?**

This opportunity is as much about providing a connection between young anglers and their licensed mentors as it is about getting youth to fish. Youth-only fishing events often result in youth fishing without the parent or other adult present. The Mentored Youth Fishing Day allows the adult and youth to participate together, share tips and techniques, and provide mutual encouragement.

## **9. How many youth can fish with each mentor? How many mentors can fish with each youth?**

The PFBC discourages a group of adults to 'fish' with one youth, or to fish while the youth is playing elsewhere, or is too young to fish. The PFBC also discourages youth organizations from using this as an opportunity to get a large group of youth fishing, with minimal adult supervision. Remember, mentoring works best when it's one-on-one interaction.

The Commission wants families or other adult mentors to enjoy the day fishing together with the youth in their lives. In past years, we saw several small family groups where parents and grandparents fished with youth. Remember, you are never too old to be the mentor or the one being mentored!

## **10. Why does the PFBC provide this opportunity?**

In 2013 and 2014, the PFBC conducted pilot Mentored Youth Trout Fishing opportunities on limited waters. The full rationale and evaluation of the 2013 regional pilot is on the Commission's website. Because of the success and popularity of these pilots, the PFBC has expanded the mentoring opportunity to include special youth days such as these to offer engaging opportunities for both youth and their parents or other mentors.

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