

Frequently Asked Questions

PFBC's Mentored Youth Trout Fishing Days

1. What are Mentored Youth Trout Fishing Days?

Mentored Youth Trout Fishing Days provide an opportunity for young anglers and their adult mentors to fish for trout prior to the opening day of trout. There are two different Mentored Youth Trout Fishing Days each year, held on the Saturday prior to the regional opening day (18 counties) of trout and the statewide opening day. The day officially begins at 8:00 a.m. and ends at 7:30 p.m.

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 current trout/salmon permit and be accompanied by a youth (less than 16 years of age) who has obtained a permit or voluntary license from the Commission.

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 (WSFR), administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

4. Where can I get a permit or voluntary license?

Mentored Youth Fishing Permits and Voluntary Youth Fishing Licenses are available at the 900 fishing license-issuing agents and online at 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. These may be added to the customer's profile at a later time by following the instructions in The Outdoor Shop at www.GoneFishingPA.com.

Vouchers for the voluntary license are available at the 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 the voucher is redeemed 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 every voluntary youth license sold, the PFBC will receive approximately \$5 in federal revenue from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Sport Fish Restoration Act program, 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 is dedicated to youth programs.

6. What waters are included?

All Stocked Trout Waters (except those with special regulations) are included in the Mentored Youth Trout Fishing Days. The PFBC's stocking schedule for these waters is available February 1st at www.fishandboat.com. Other waters may be added to the list, and that list may be viewed at the PFBC website.

7. What is the creel limit?

Youth anglers may keep a combined species total of two trout, at least 7 inches in length. While mentors will be permitted to fish for trout, they are not permitted to harvest trout and must release them unharmed.

8. What other regulations apply?

- In order to fish on Stocked Trout Waters (except those with special regulations), anglers 16 years of age or older (adult anglers) must possess a valid Pennsylvania fishing license and current trout/salmon permit and be accompanied by a youth (less than 16 years of age) who has obtained a permit or voluntary license from the Commission.
- All other Commonwealth inland regulations apply on this day.

9. Mentor anglers are no longer permitted to keep two trout--why?

The PFBC made this change for 2016 in response to feedback from mentors as well as other anglers. The only negative feedback received by the PFBC was related in some way to allowing the mentors to keep two fish. The purpose of the day is to provide an opportunity for mentors and youth to participate together, share tips and techniques, and provide mutual encouragement. Initial feedback on this change has been positive, and supportive.

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

Please keep in mind that this is not an opportunity for adults to get an early start to trout season. 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.

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 can be found on the Commission's website. Because of the success and popularity of these pilots, the PFBC expanded the mentoring opportunity to all Stocked Trout Waters (except those with special regulations) in 2015. Special youth days such as these offer engaging opportunities for both youth and their parents or other mentors.

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