



Over 1,000 kids attended the 26th annual Kids Fishing Festival on July 27 in Mammoth Lakes, according to event officials. The event is put on by Mono Council for the Arts and the Eastern Sierra Fishing Guides Association, with major support from the Department of Fish and Wildlife. **Photos/Submitted**

Kids learn the ins and outs of fishing

More than 1,000 children attend Mammoth Lakes Kids Fishing Festival

Times Staff Report

Thousands of kids learned all about the sport of fishing at the 26th annual Kids Fishing Festival on July 27 in Mammoth Lakes.

According to event officials, more than 1,000 children fished for—and caught—big trophy-sized Alpers trout on July 27 in the ponds at Snowcreek Resort.

For those who needed a little help, Berkley Pro Staff anglers, Irvine Lake Pro Staff, and Eastern Sierra Fishing Association Guides made sure nearly every child caught a fish and had a memorable experience.

Along with the pro fishing guides, the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) provided support for the event with loaner rods and reels for each young angler to use.

In addition, DFW biologists from the California Fishing Passport and Fishing in the City programs, Hot Creek Hatchery staff, Hatchery Outreach, and local game wardens also helped throughout the day.

DFW staff taught young anglers casting techniques and after each child finished fishing, they received California Fishing Passport books and fish identification books.

Those who caught fish received their first stamps in their passport books to commemorate the event.

DFW staff also gave out junior

fishing licenses and coloring books illustrating California's hatchery programs and the lives of trout.

Members of the Eastern Sierra Fishing Guides Association also helped children interested in fly fishing catch a trout. They taught them proper catch-and-release techniques.

Local event supporters ran a busy fish cleaning station so each child's fish could be taken home ready to be cooked and eaten.

Raffle prizes were continuously handed out with prizes including boat rentals on local lakes, rods and reels, dinner at Convict Lake Resort, and binoculars, among other items.

A T-shirt painting booth was a popular attraction where kids painted shirts with trout imprints, along with their name and the year as a memento of their experience.

The Lions Club provided coffee, donuts and orange juice to all in attendance.

The festival was sponsored by Mono Council for the Arts and the Eastern Sierra Fishing Guides Association, with major support from DFW and Berkley. Major funding came from the Town of Mammoth Lakes and the Mono County Fisheries Commission.

The annual Kids Fishing Festival in Mammoth Lakes is held every year on the last Saturday in July. Next year's event is scheduled for July 26th.

For more information, visit www.KidsFishFest.com or www.ESFGA.org.

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