DATE: April 21, 2016

To: All District 1 County Extension Agents

Subject: 4-H Fishin’ N Fun

From: Shawnte Clawson J. R. Sprague
Extension Specialist Lipscomb CEA-ANR
4-H & Youth Development Field and Stream Committee Chair

When: June 13-14, 2016 - 12:00 p.m. Check-in on June 13.

Where: Mesa Vista Ranch, Cottonwood Lake. The Ranch entrance is north of Pampa or south of Perryton on Hwy 70. Entrance to the Ranch will be at the double gates just south of the river bridge on west side of Hwy 70. A map is enclosed. There will be additional signs on the property to direct you to the lake.

What: Basic fishing instruction, fishing tournament

Why: To introduce youth to the life-long sport of fishing and outdoor recreation

Age: Must be in 3rd grade September 1, 2015. Clover kids (8 years of age and under) must be accompanied by older 4-H sibling and parents.

Fee: Registration and the $35.00 per participant fee for youth and adults must be made via 4-H Connect on the D-1 website: http://d14-h.tamu.edu/ Registration will open May 9 and close on June 3. The fee includes dinner, breakfast, snacks, program supplies, limited medical insurance and fishing access. Registration will be limited to the first 100 youth registered. Agents please register on 4-H Connect – fees will be waived.

All participants will go through educational sessions on boat and water safety. All persons in the water must wear a life jacket. No swimming except for designated time.

Tournament Rules:

Age Divisions:
(a) 9-10 years old
(b) 11-12 years old
(c) 13-14 years old
(d) 15-18 years old

☞ 1 pole per angler
☞ Awards will be based on the total length of the 5 largest fish caught.
☞ Ties will be broken by the number of fish caught.
☞ Registration required by June 3, 2016.
☞ All fish must be caught on a rod and reel, no saining or dip netting.
☞ This is a catch and release tournament.
☞ No fishing allowed until tournament starts.
☞ Final tournament rules will be announced before the tournament starts.
☞ First Time Camper Award (Third Grader) goes to largest fish caught by youth who attends Fishin N Fun for the first time.
***NO FLOAT TUBES***    ***NO BOATS***

**Chaperones**
Counties must provide their own chaperones (gender appropriate) for each child. A one adult per 6 children ratio will be followed. Adult chaperone must be 21 years of age or older. **All adult volunteers must be a Screened 4-H Volunteer and must have completed the Child Protection training on 4-H Connect by registration deadline.**

The Fishin N Fun committee is not responsible for providing chaperones. If counties are sending any youth without a parent or legal guardian, the appointed chaperone must follow the child protection procedures outlined in the Texas 4-H Youth Protection guidelines, administered by their respective Extension office.

**Additional Information:**
Bring your own fishing poles and tackle. Bring all available life jackets. Each county will compete for the Traveling Trophy Team Championship. Winner will be calculated by team total inches. Team will consist of participants from each county. **All required forms must be turned in to JR at camp check in.** The forms may also be found on the District 1 website: [http://d14-h.tamu.edu/events/field-stream-project/](http://d14-h.tamu.edu/events/field-stream-project/)

- Code of Conduct
- Consequences of Misbehavior
- Media Release
- Medical Information
- Waiver and Consent to Medical Treatment

A designated area for swimming, wading, etc. will be established. No one shall be swimming in any area except the area designated as swimming area.
For Immediate Release

4-H Fishin’ and Fun Overnight Camp and Fishing Tournament will be held at Mesa Vista Ranch, Cottonwood Lake on June 13 & 14, 2016, starting with check-in at 1:00 p.m. on June 13. The goal of the program is to introduce kids to the lifelong sport of fishing. Those registered will be involved in basic fishing classes and outdoor education safety, and casting. In addition, participants will enter the fishing tournament.

This fun activity is for the beginning and the expert angler. Registration fee is $35.00 per person. Each participant is asked to bring their own tents and necessities. Please bring all available life jackets. All swimmers will be required to wear life jackets. Meals, snacks and program supplies will be provided. All participants must bring their own bait. You might be able to catch grasshoppers at the lake. Contact your local county Extension office for specific tournament rules and registration materials. Pre-registration is due online via 4-H Connect no later than June 3. Registration will open on May 9. For more information, forms, and access to 4-H Connect go to:

http://d14-h.tamu.edu/project-resources/outdoor-education/sportfishing/

These forms are included in the packet and are required to be completed and turned in at the time of check-in:

- Code of Conduct
- Medical Information Form
- Media Release
- Medical Authorization Form
- Consequences of Misbehavior
Schedule of Activities

A registration fee of $35.00 is due by June 3, 2016. Registration is via 4-H Connect which can be accessed through the District 1 website: http://d14-h.tamu.edu/

June 13
12:00 p.m. Arrival and Set Up Camp - NO LUNCH PROVIDED
1:00 p.m. Check In
1:00-2:30 p.m. Orientation
Concurrent Sessions:
Outdoor Safety - Keith Boone
Casting/Knot Tying – Dale Dunlap/Chester Hales
Fish ID - Ochiltree County Game Warden, Mike Wheat
Safety - Ochiltree County Game Warden, Mike Wheat
3:00-7:00 p.m. Fishing Tournament
7:00-8:00 p.m. Swimming – this is the only time youth will be allowed in the water. Swimming will occur at the dock area only: Lifejacket must be worn
8:00 p.m. Supper
11:00 p.m. In Tents

June 14
Daylight Early morning fishing
9:30 a.m. Breakfast and Awards
11:00 a.m. Clean up/Check out
Go Home

Bad Weather
In the event of bad weather, arrangements have been made at a weather secure facility on the Ranch.

Items for each participant to bring
Tent
Sleeping Bag/Air mattress etc...
Sun Screen
Personal Toiletries including toilet paper
Insect Repellent
Extra Changes of Clothes
Fishing Pole and Tackle
Bait - worms, minnows, artificial lures, salmon eggs
Light Jacket
Flashlight/Lanterns
Swimsuit/Wading clothes
Life Jackets - if you have extra life jackets, please bring them as others may need to borrow one.

The lake is stocked with Large Mouth Bass, Crappie and Sunfish.

*We need all the small life jackets we can borrow.*