



2021 Southeast Region Bass & Catfish Skill-a-Thon & Educational Opportunities



Species:

Bass (any species listed below)

Largemouth Bass (<i>Micropterus salmoides</i>)	
Smallmouth Bass (<i>Micropterus dolomieu</i>)	
Spotted Bass (<i>Micropterus punctulatus</i>)	
Guadalupe Bass (<i>Micropterus treculi</i>)	

Catfish (any species listed below)

<i>Freshwater Catfish</i>	<i>Marine Catfish</i>
Channel Catfish (<i>Ictalurus punctatus</i>)	Hardhead Catfish (<i>Arius felis</i>)
Flathead Catfish (<i>Pylodictis olivaris</i>)	Gafftopsail (<i>Bagre marinus</i>)
Blue Catfish (<i>Ictalurus furcatus</i>)	

To learn how to identify specific fish species in Texas:

<https://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/water/aquaticspecies/inland.phtml>

Schedule:

Species	Dates	Fishing Times
Bass and Catfish (any species saltwater or freshwater)	May 29 th & 30 th June 5 th & 6 th June 12 th & 13 th	Saturday, 6:00 am – Sunday 6:00 pm Saturday, 6:00 am – Sunday 6:00 pm Saturday, 6:00 am – Sunday 6:00 pm

Post entry pictures for judging no later than 8:00 PM on May 30th, June 6th, and/or 13th. Any entries submitted after the deadline will be disqualified. See section: Fishing Tournament (Skill-a-thon) Rules and State Fishing Regulations for more information. *Photos must be from the respective weekend(s) in which you fished and posted accordingly.

A Question-and-Answer session will be held on Thursday, May 20th at 6:30 p.m. Please join us to ask questions and learn more about this opportunity. Submit your name at the link below to receive the link to the Q&A session:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=CljXn3JknE2hQtEx06ehFIU5fIU7LtRHilqPVB2wPxdUOExUTFg5WE1TNkxTTVpaNjgzTERMNzYzRC4u>

Location:

Fish anywhere within Texas freshwater. (<https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/general-rules-regulations/freshwater-saltwater-boundaries>)

Boats are not required.

Entry Requirements and Deadlines:

4-H youth in District 9 and District 11, including Clover Kids, may enter the Southeast Region Bass and Catfish Skill-a-Thon. Entry will be on 4-H Online at <https://texas.4honline.com> and is due by May 26, 2021 at 11:59 pm (\$15) to participate in the skill-a-thon. Only those registered on 4-H Online by the deadline will be eligible to participate.

Entry Fees:

REQUIRED ENTRY, ONE ENTRY IS REQUIRED FOR BASS AND/OR CATFISH

Individual Bass \$15 per 4-H member– Exhibit your skills against all entered 4-H’ers across the region. For all three (3) weekends, up to 9 photos total can be submitted (3 photos each weekend). Example: if you catch 3 fish each weekend, you will have “9” total lengths overall to submit. *Must submit your longest 3 lengths each weekend utilizing the code provided*

Individual Catfish \$15 per 4-H member – Exhibit your skills against all entered 4-H’ers across the region. For all three (3) weekends, up to 9 photos total can be submitted (3 photos each weekend). Example: if you catch 3 fish each weekend, you will have “9” total lengths overall to submit. *Must submit your longest 3 lengths each weekend utilizing the code provided*

OPTIONAL ENTRIES:

- **Team Entry** \$5 per individual– Exhibit your skills as a 3-4-member team against all entered 4-H teams across the region. Teams will be the same for Bass and Catfish. Junior, Intermediate and Senior 4-H members can compete on the same team. Clover Kids are not eligible to compete on a team.
- **Largest Single Bass Catch** \$5 per individual- Exhibit your skills against all entered 4-H’ers across the region for the biggest Bass. Only one picture per registered individual per weekend with the correct code can be entered. There will be a winner each weekend and photos must be submitted by 8:00 pm on the May 30th, June 6th, and/or 13th. The overall lengths will not be added together each weekend.
- **Largest Single Catfish Catch**- \$5 per individual- Exhibit your skills against all entered 4-H’ers across the region for the biggest catfish. Only one picture per registered individual per weekend with the correct code can be entered. There will be a winner each weekend and photos must be submitted by 8:00 pm on the May 30th, June 6th, and/or 13th. The overall lengths will not be added together each weekend.

Recognition:

Results will be announced via email. Presentation of awards will take place at the county level after results posted and awards sent to county offices. 1st – 3rd place prizes will be awarded by the Southeast Region 4-H Fishing Committee. Entry via 4-H Online gives permission to the District office to use the participant’s name and photograph as needed for marketing and promotion purposes.

Educational Opportunities:

4-H members can join the Southeast Region Bass and Catfish Skill-a-thon on Google Classroom. Participants will have the opportunity to view videos and information and resources from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agents and Texas Parks and Wildlife Specialists on the topics below.

<https://classroom.google.com/u/0/c/MzM1MDA5ODE2NDc5?cjc=fjgnxvo>

Schedule of Educational Opportunities:

- Monday: Fishing Techniques and Tips and Fish Identification
 - Where to fish.
 - Tackle and Bait options
 - Measuring your fish.
 - Casting
 - Catch and Release
- Tuesday: Cooking with fish: Healthy Food Demo and Recipe
- Wednesday: Careers near fish
- Thursday: Water Safety
 - Fishing Safety
 - Proper footwear
 - “Look before you Cast”
 - Personal Flotation Device
 - Sun Safety, clothing, sun protection
 - Hydration
- Friday: Fun Facts
- Saturday: Fishing Tournament (Skill-a-thon) Begins
- Sunday: Fishing Tournament (Skill-a-thon) Ends

Fishing Skill-a-thon Rules and State Fishing Regulations:

- **All decisions made by the Management Team are Final!**
- All fish entered must be kept in edible condition.
- All anglers must possess a valid fishing license if required by law.
- All fish entered must have been caught on the dates and times provided.
- All fish entered must have been caught by rod and reel.
- All fish entered must meet the legal-size limits for that species:
 - Channel Catfish - 12 inches
 - Blue Catfish - 12 inches
 - Flathead Catfish - 18 inches
 - Gafftopsail - 14 inches
 - Hardhead Catfish - No minimum
- Bass regulations
 - Largemouth Bass – 14 inches
 - Smallmouth Bass – 14 inches
 - Spotted Bass – No minimum
 - Guadalupe Bass – No minimum
 - Alabama Bass – No minimum

Freshwater Bag and Length Limits — Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Any legal requirement not mentioned above is covered in Texas Parks and Wildlife Department’s Outdoor Annual. Be sure to follow all Texas regulations regarding fishing licenses, bag limits, length requirements and other rules <https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/>

Posting Limits:

Bass: You may catch and release as many bass as possible during the allotted time. Post the three (3) pictures of your longest 3 fish.

Catfish: You may catch and release as many catfish as possible during the allotted times. Post the three (3) pictures of your longest fish. Only 1 flathead picture is allowed. Catfish entries submitted must meet the minimum legal size.

Virtual Participation Criteria:

You will be given an eight letter/digit code for each weekend of fishing to display on an index card, or use the preprinted form on page 6, to use when photographing your fish. The code will be emailed one hour before the skill-a-thon begins. On the index card you need to have the following information:

- Youth's first and last name,
- County,
- Fish number
- Code.

Cards that cannot be read will be disqualified. Suggestion: Place each card in a clear plastic bag so it remains dry and ink does not run. If participating on a team, place the name of angler that caught the fish on the top line (Team Member #1). The fish number means is it catch 1, 2 or 3.

Photograph of fish and card, with the correct code, must be submitted using the Google Doc link. The link will be sent via email to all registered participants. by 8:00 pm on the May 30th, June 6th, and/or 13th. Photographs submitted before or after skill-a-thon times will be non-scoring. Note: This may mean that you change locations before time is up to ensure you have internet service.

In the photograph the measurement on board and card must be legible. You may hold your fish on the board, just be sure to not cover the mouth and tail with anything that blocks these views. The measuring board may be purchased or homemade (see instructional video.)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FJOeDKST9MUvO6pIJ5rEyWxn95wnNkjo/view?usp=sharing>

All fish entered must be photographed on a measuring board:

- Fish shall be positioned on its right side with the head facing to the left.
- Mouth of fish must be closed, touching the board and tail pinched.
- The head and tail of the fish shall be visible along with the overall length clearly in view.
- The individual or teams index card and unique code shall be included in photograph and readable.
- If measurement cannot be read from photograph, the entry will be considered non-scoring.

See example below:



Personal Safety:

Each 4-H family entered is responsible for the safety of youth anglers during the skill-a-thon.

Below are a few things to keep in mind:

If required by law, all participants will wear a personal flotation device (PFD) while fishing from a boat. Recommended: Use of a PFD is highly recommended by all regardless of age or swimming ability.

Sun Safety

- Wear a hat with wide brim.
- Wear sunglasses
- Use sun block with at least SPF 30
- Wear loose clothes
- Wear footwear with a hard sole and closed toe, avoid “flip flops”
- Drink plenty of water

Cold Weather Safety

- Wear warm clothing utilizing the layer method so clothes can add or taken off if needed.
- Synthetic fibers are quicker drying than natural fibers like cotton.
- Keep your head covered because 50% of body heat is lost through the head.
- Cold water does not have to be icy; it just has to be colder than you are to cause hypothermia. The lower the temperature of the water, the faster the onset of hypothermia.
- Hypothermia is the extreme lowering of body temperature. Core body temperature below 95°F
- Signs of Hyperthermia are shivering, confusion, and loss of muscle strength. If not treated and reversed, hypothermia leads to unconsciousness and death.

All decisions made by the Management Team are Final!

Example Posting Card for Photos

Please print – must be legible!

Individual Angler Name: _____

County _____

Fish Number: _____

8-digit code: _____ (emailed 1 hour before skill-a-thon)

(Complete below if registered as a team)

Angler Name 1: _____

Angler Name 2: _____

Angler Name 3: _____

Angler Name 4: _____