

Kids Fishing Derby

June 4 at Middleton-Mills Park

"Take me fishing!"

Kenton County Parks & Recreation will present the Kids Fishing Derby for kids of all ages on Saturday, June 4 from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm at Middleton-Mills Park. It's free! Even adults won't need fishing licenses when they are helping their kids because it's 'Fish Free in Kentucky' weekend! Start a family tradition!

Taking a youngster fishing can be one of the most rewarding experiences an adult can have with a child. Sitting at the water's edge with your son or daughter, fishing lines extending peacefully into the rippling waters, just you and your child... Does it make a difference? You bet! Water works wonders!

Don't worry if you have never fished before. KCP&R will have everything for you and your child to enjoy a great day of fishing ~ spincast rods and reels, hooks, bobbers, and bait.

Special "Thanks" to our friends at Reel Cool™ Fishing Bottles™! Wait til you get a load of this breakthrough fishing product! The Reel Cool Fishing Bottle allows you to 'fish anywhere, anytime!' For more, visit www.fishingbottles.com.

FREE bicycle helmets! BRIDGES, Inc. volunteers will be set up on site to fit and give away FREE bicycle helmets to children during the Kids Fishing Derby! BRIDGES volunteers will be educating kids and adults about injury prevention and the importance of wearing appropriately fitted, safety approved helmets whenever participating in leisure activities including bicycling, skating, skateboarding, snowboarding, skiing, sledding, horseback riding, etc.

The acronym of BRIDGES means **BR**ain **I**njury **D**emands **G**uidance **E**ducation and **S**upport. For more about BRIDGES, visit the web at www.bridgesnky.org/.

For the Kids Fishing Derby itself, if you want to bring something, pack an extra helping of patience! Oh, and bring a camera. You'll be making memories and the pictures you take will likely become priceless.

If your kids say "I'm hungry", you will be able to purchase your family's lunch right at the park! Our friends from Colonial Cottage will be cookin' up the good summer party stuff ~ hotdogs and hamburgers with all the fixin's!

At all other times (and even after the Derby), it's OK to keep your catch from either of the ponds in Middleton-Mills Park but on June 4, during the event, KCP&R will be introducing kids to good conservation habits and sportsmanship and we'll be practicing 'catch and release'.

Catch and release, or carefully returning caught fish to the water instead of keeping the fish to eat, is important so that the next time you go fishing at your favorite fishin' hole, you can expect to catch a fish.

PetsMart in Florence has kindly donated an aquarium so that examples of each species caught may be observed 'up close and personal' before being released. That's for the 'Big Fish of Each Species' Contest!

A resource table of fishing-related materials, including items provided by Kentucky's Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, will be available, too.

Volunteers: Even if you don't have a kid to bring, mark June 4 on your calendar. We will surely need fishermen and fisherwomen to help youngsters who may need a little. Come on out to Middleton-Mills Park, share your experience, and help teach kids the fun of fishing!

It all happens at Middleton-Mills Park, located at 3415 Mills Rd., Covington, KY 41015. Directions are easy! From I-275, take Exit 79 (Covington-Taylor Mill) and drive seven miles south on KY Hwy 16 to Mills Road. Turn left on Mills Road and drive about one mile to the park. We'll be using Shelterhouse 1, right on the pond you see as you enter the park.

Where do the fish come from? KCP&R, in cooperation with Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources, is excited to be part of the FINS program. That's Fishing In NeighborhoodS! Both of the ponds at Middleton-Mills Park are enrolled in the program; the Shelterhouse Pond since 2006 and the Long Pond since 2010. FINS is intended to enrich and lengthen the season for fishing in Kentucky. And it seems to be working! For more about the FINS program, visit <http://fw.ky.gov/Fish/Pages/Fishing-In-Neighborhoods.aspx>. For questions or comments about FINS, contact Dane Balsman, Urban Fisheries Biologist at dane.balsman@ky.gov or call him at (502) 564-7109 ext. 4480.

We'll be using the Shelterhouse Pond for the Kids Fishing Derby but once the Derby is completed, hike on down and wet a line in the Long Pond. It gets less pressure... (Wink, wink!)

Call Kenton County Recreation at (859) 525-PLAY (7529) to see how you can help ~ we are always in need of volunteers and funding sponsors for our programs!

For news of upcoming programs, activities, and events to be held in Kenton County's parks, sign up for ParkSmarts e-News, our e-newsletter of What's Happening in Kenton County's Parks. Visit us at kentoncounty.org, text KENTONPARKSMARTS to 22828, or call our office at (859) 525-PLAY (7529). Don't miss a single adventure!