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CAST FOR KIDS -- Newton, Kansas Harvey County lake June 23, 2012

"Catch a Special Thrill"



EVENT INFORMATION

Well, another year is under the belt so to speak. This is the seventh year for the Kansas Highway Patrol's KHP/C.A.S.T. event and the second year at Harvey County East Lake. As I look back at the history of the C.A.S.T. for Kids Foundation and the partnerships formed with Federal and State agencies including the United States Bureau of Reclamation, I find myself wondering if anybody realized how valued these events would be. Did anyone realize that these events would be held in more than 25 states? Did anyone ever imagine that law enforcement and government agencies would come together with fisherman to provide a program that leaves such a strong impression on disabled and disadvantaged children?

I look at our own beginnings and know that in Kansas, this event would not have went anywhere without the help of the Kansas Highway Patrol supervision and the Kansas State Troopers Association. When we started this endeavor, I never imagined we would set the bar for other law enforcement agencies to follow in other states. When we started, law enforcement at an event was a rarity. Today, I still look at our event as a way to introduce these children to law enforcement, build relationships, and give families another activity (fishing) they may have never tried before. A weekend of fishing has a way of rejuvenating the soul!

This year's Kansas Highway Patrol C.A.S.T. for Kids fishing event was every bit as special for the 27 young disabled or disadvantaged children. For some of these young children, it was the first



Event Name: Kansas Highway Patrol C.A.S.T. For Kids

Date of Event: June 23, 2012

Body of Water: Harvey County East Lake

Location: Newton, Kansas

Number of Participants: 27

Number of Boater Participants: 15

Number of Other Volunteers: 30

Children's Agencies:
Big Brothers and Big Sisters
Harvey County District Court
Harvey County School District
Rainbows United

time in a bass boat, first time up-close to law enforcement, and the first time to catch a fish.

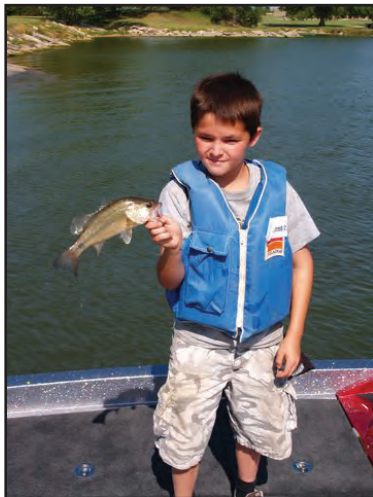
On the way to the registration tables, they were able to sit in the patrol vehicles, ask questions of troopers, and see firsthand what a trooper's vehicle looks like. The participants proudly displayed the junior trooper stickers given to them. The children also were given brand new Zebco rods and reels, tackle boxes, hats, and shirts. This year, we had a new design on our shirts and on the back we sported the KHP 75th Anniversary logo.

We kicked off the event with a prayer and the National Anthem performed by Motor Carrier Inspector Fred Johnson. Kansas Highway Patrol Administrative Assistants Angela Grammer, Renae McCrory, and Elizabeth Turner, helped with registration, setup, and awards. Kansas Motorist Assist Officer Mike Briley took photos making sure every child had a photo that could be placed in their plaque. Briley has been our photographer for six years running and does an awesome job. We had over 20 troopers partnering with the kids and families this year, which is what this program is all about. They also signed plenty of autographs with radio numbers for the kids. Sedgwick County Sheriff's Deputies Bill Felix and Dave Rank handled the sound system for us again. They have been our partners since the event was developed.

Some great people who helped make this event possible were Park Manager Cass Miller, Officer Jennifer Motes with the Halstead Police Department, and Melanie Watkins with Harvey County District Court. Motes and Watkins were instrumental in getting the word out to the children of Harvey County who could benefit most from our event.

They say a picture is worth a thousand words. If that's true, when you look at the photos from this event, it's easy to see why our event is so special. It feels great to everyone involved to "Catch a Special Thrill."

BASS WISHES!! 



Newton, Kansas
Harvey County Lake, June 23, 2012

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