

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Free Family Fishing Day & Youth Fishing & Casting Derby

The Lower Big Blue Natural Resources District, Beatrice Optimist Club, the Swan 5 Advisory Council and Big Indian Archers are hosting the 18th Annual Free Family Fishing Day and Youth Fishing & Casting Derby on Saturday, May 18, 2019 at Willard L. Meyer Recreation Area near Tobias, Nebraska. Also referred to as Swan Lake, Willard L. Meyer Recreation Area is located three miles east and two miles north of Tobias. Or, from the Highway 74/Highway 15 intersection, the recreation area is five miles west and two miles north. The day also coincides with the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission's statewide free fishing day, so no state park entry permits or fishing permits are required.

Events for this year include the Youth Fishing Derby, Optimist Club Casting Contest, Nebraska National Guard Aircraft Display-Weather Permitting, Hands-On Archery Demonstration by Big Indian Archers, J&J Outdoors hands-on trapping demonstration, Boat Rides with Boat Safety Presentations and Nebraska Game & Parks Fishery Display. The Fishing Derby will be held from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. with check-in from 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. Limited bait, rods and reels are available by pre-registration only. Medals and prizes will be awarded in four age groups (5 and under, 6-9, 10-12, 13-18) for largest, smallest and most fish caught. **Pre-registration is required and the deadline is Thursday, May 16, 2019.** A free hot dog lunch will be provided to Fishing Derby participants and family.

Additionally, the Willard L. Meyer Recreation Area has a swimming beach, playground equipment and electrical and non-electrical camping areas. During the fishing derby and boat safety presentations boats will not be allowed on the lake. For more information or to pre-register, contact the Lower Big Blue NRD at 228-3402 ext. 6 or email kimmerling@lbbnrd.net.



Contestants fish for bragging rights in 2018



Attendees try their hand at archery at the 2018 event.