

WHITE OAK BAYOU FISH-OFF

GENERAL RULES & JUDGING GUIDELINES

General Rules:

- All participants must register online or in-person between 8 A.M. and 9 A.M. at Woodland Park on Saturday June 3rd prior to entry into the competition.
- All participants must submit a signed waiver before their fish is judged.
- All fish must be caught on the day of the competition (June 3, 2017).
- All fish must be caught in White Oak Bayou or one of its tributaries. Approved tributaries include: Little White Oak Bayou, Vogel Creek, Cole Creek, Brickhouse Gully (...good luck), Little Thicket Bayou, Rolling Fork, and Turkey Gully. Contestants must indicate the location where the entry was caught to the judges at the time of judging (GPS/map location is preferred, but not required).
- All catches must be made using a hook & line or dip net.
- Only FISH shall be caught and entered into the competition. No amphibians, reptiles, waterfowl, insects, or other animals will be accepted.
- All fish must be kept “fresh” prior to judging. Live entries with intent to release are preferred, but not required. Fish may also be kept on ice.
- All contestants are responsible for the care or disposal of their entries.
- No invasive species shall be released back into the bayou. If caught, invasive species must be disposed of. Common invasive aquatic species you may encounter include Zebra Mussels, Asian Carp, Asian Clams, and Armored Catfish.
- Only one fish per participant permitted.
- All contest entries should be turned in to the judging booth at Woodland Park between 11 A.M. and 12 P.M.
- Please review and abide by all Texas Park and Wildlife Department fishing regulations and guidelines:
 - General Fishing Regulations: <http://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/general-rules-regulations/general-fishing-regulations>
 - Legal Fishing Devices: <http://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/general-rules-regulations/legal-devices-for-fish>

Judging:

- Judging will begin at 11 A.M. All entries must be submitted by 12:00 P.M. Final Judging will be at 12:15 P.M. sharp. The “Fish Lips” competition will be held at 12:30 P.M. during the awards announcement.
- Fish will be tagged, measured, and weighed when brought in for judging by the weigh-in volunteers.
- A fish can only be entered in one category. The contestant must choose which one prior to the judging.(One fish cannot be entered in all three categories.)
- Fish categories can be switched by Judges or the Weigh-in Captain to different categories if needed to complete the prize requirements. (For example; if all fish are entered in the

"biggest" category and the "ugliest" category needs contestants, the judges can switch an entry so individuals can have a chance for a prize.) Judges have final decision on categories.

- Only one category entry is allowed per contestant.

The Categories are as follows:

- Biggest Fish: This one is for the largest, heaviest, and widest fish of the day. If that sucker would break concrete if dropped, we want it!
- Ugliest Fish: Bring us something scary, horrifying, or pure nightmare fuel! If you think your fish will keep our judges up all night, we want to see it!
- Most Unusual Fish: If it's got two heads, feet, or looks like it came from outer space, bring it to us so our researchers can determine if it belongs in the Museum of Natural Science or Area 51!
- Little Anglers: (kids 12 and under) Hey kids, bring us your biggest, best, or funniest-looking catch of the day and tell us how you caught it!
- Each of the above categories will be awarded a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. First place prizes will include a free Annual Membership for adults.
- Best Story: Did you miss out on the trophy because the fish tore the line from your hands? Did you see a fish with dozens of hooks in his mouth where no fish has swam for 30 years? Were you attached by a mugger and the only weapon available was your trusty fish. We want to hear your best stories and tallest tales from the day.
- Biggest Trash: We want to hear about the biggest piece or pile of trash you found. Don't drive that abandoned car back here, and don't drag that rusty piece of metal with your bare hands, but we want to know where it is. Bring us a picture and a description of the location.
- Best "Fish Lips": For kids 12 & under, or adults who feel 12 & under. Let's see your best fish impression! We will announce the judging for this one during the awards, so stick around until 12:30 P.M. if you want to enter.