

## **Metro West Steelheaders Kid's Fishing Outing**

The Metro West Steelheader's, Kid's Fishing Outing is an outreach effort designed to give young people an introduction to sport fishing and promote the values of wildlife conservation. The Outing is designed to introduce young people with no experience to sport fishing or to give those with some experience access to one-on-one interaction with experienced anglers who can offer any level of instruction desired by the attendee. There is no fee to attend other than paying to enter Kensington Metro Park. Participants are allowed to keep the fishing equipment they are issued by the club.



The Kid's Fishing Outing has been a fixture on the Steelheader's calendar for many years. Currently, the Outing takes place at the East Shore Fishing Park in Kensington Metro Park, in Milford. The event is approximately 4 hours in length and takes place once a year, normally in June. We limit the number of children invited to participate to 100 children, ages 5 to 16 years old. Total attendance is usually around 250 people including kids, their parents, and volunteers. Our volunteer staff is comprised of 10 – 15 experienced anglers. They are assigned specific tasks during the Outing. Some move around the

participants, teaching and helping as needed. The event is usually structured with 2 hours of fishing, from 9 AM to 11 AM, a wild animal show from 11 AM to noon, and lunch at noon, for the attending child and their parents.

The Outing is supported by the Steelheaders fund raising efforts at the Sportsman's Banquet, the Comedy Club Fundraiser, and other groups. We are grateful for the long running support from Walt's Crawlers. Walt's has provided live bait in the form of red worms for almost as long as the event has existed. A critical component for a successful fishing Outing!

Exotic Zoo and The Wildlife Safari are vendors that provide a wild animal show with a conservation message as part of the program. These companies introduce the children to animals from around the world as well as those found locally in Michigan. The presenters share many interesting facts about the animals and the kids generate many insightful questions for the presenters.



In recent years the Steelheaders have been working with Project Fish to provide a set of fishing equipment tailored to our Outing. The fishing tackle can also be used in many general fishing adventures in the children's future. Each participant will receive a fully rigged rod and reel. Additionally, they will also receive a well equipped tacklebox. This tacklebox contains hooks, sinkers and bobbers that is the foundational gear needed to learn how to fish with live bait. The tacklebox also has artificial lures like spoons, jigs and plastic worms. These lures are included to give participants an introduction to fishing without live bait.