



# Sportfishing Challenge: Let's Go Fishing!



The sportfishing project provides hands-on learning experiences for youth and adults interested in fishing and aquatic resource stewardship. In this challenge, you'll explore fishing skills, conservation, ethical knowledge, aquatic ecology, tackle crafting, and much more.

## Inspire Kids to Do

### Skill Building

Fishing is a hobby that takes practice and learning! This challenge will help you:

- Learn about fishing and the steps to being successful.
- Learn about the biology of fish and the aquatic world.

### Goals

- Become proficient in the sport of fishing
- Identify basics of fish biology
- Provide community benefit

### Project Ideas

- Notebook or Poster documenting your experiences.
- Present a demonstrated talk about casting techniques.
- Organize a local lake or creek clean-up day.
- Create a poster of fish ecology.
- Give a talk on fishing regulations and ethics.

### Self-Evaluation Before

Using the rating scale below, answer the following:

- 1 = not at all
- 2 = a little
- 3 = a lot

### I know how to ...

Identify at least 2 different fish species in Kansas ..... 1 - 2 - 3

Purposefully target a fish species ..... 1 - 2 - 3

I can adjust and adapt to fishing situations ..... 1 - 2 - 3

### Starting Out

#### Kansas Fish Species

Research topics include:

- Fish Identification and Classification
- Body Parts and their Purposes
- General Biology
- Seasonal Habits
- Diet
- Habitat
- Occurrence/Range
- Specific Regulations  
Examples: Limits, methods, etc.

### Learning More

#### Tackle and Equipment

Research topics include:

- What combination of rod, reel, line and bait will produce best results for your target species?
- Create a tackle box inventory based on the target species.
- Research how to best maintain tackle quality and performance.

### Expanding Horizons

#### Practice "Cast, work, set, and landing"

Each step has various techniques and styles. Find the style that works best for you!

- Casting out
- Working the lure
- Setting the hook
- Landing the fish

# Sportfishing Challenge: Let's Go Fishing!

Challenge Instructions	Helpful Tips	Leadership	Curriculum and Resources
<p>Plan a fishing trip to a specific body of water</p> <p>1– Decide on which species you are going to target.</p> <p>2 – Research characteristics and effective fishing techniques.</p> <p>3 – Identify features and variables of your fishing location.</p> <p>4 – Develop a measurable goal of success. Use the sportfishing challenge sheets to identify and document your efforts.</p> <p><b>When finished, please visit <a href="http://www.tinyurl.com/KS4H-Challenge">www.tinyurl.com/KS4H-Challenge</a> to tell us what you learned.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit with local angler mentors or bait shops regarding fishing strategy.</li> <li>• Be sure to organize and check your fishing gear before your trip.</li> <li>• Don't forget to take care of yourself, too! Take sunscreen, water, snacks, etc. and always let someone know where you are going.</li> <li>• Remember, catching fish is fun, but be sure to enjoy the whole outdoor experience!</li> </ul>	<p><i>(Suggested for Intermediate and Advanced Levels.)</i></p> <p>Teach someone what you have learned.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead a sportfishing project meeting.</li> <li>• Organize a waterway clean-up day.</li> <li>• Teach a school or community group about fishing.</li> <li>• Other _____ _____</li> </ul>	<p>The <a href="#">Kansas 4-H Wildlife Project</a> includes Sportfishing. Visit <a href="https://www.kansas4-h.org/projects/">https://www.kansas4-h.org/projects/</a> to see all projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks: <a href="http://Ksoutdoors.com/Fishing">Ksoutdoors.com/Fishing</a> State resources and information.</li> <li>• Take Me Fishing: <a href="http://www.takemefishing.org">www.takemefishing.org</a> Non-profit fishing and boating resources.</li> <li>• Fishing's Future: <a href="http://Fishingsfuture.org">Fishingsfuture.org</a> Non-Profit for fishing education.</li> </ul>

## Life Skills Learned (check all that apply)

- Positive Self-Concept
- Inquiring Mind
- Concern for Community
- Sound Decision-Making
- Healthy Interpersonal Relationships

## Evaluate Your Experiences!

How did you decide what kinds of tackle to use to catch a species of fish common to your area? \_\_\_\_\_

Why are the right tools important in the sport fishing project? \_\_\_\_\_

What have you learned about tackle and fishing preparation that you can use again? \_\_\_\_\_

What was the hardest part of the activity? \_\_\_\_\_

**To complete the Challenge,** take a selfie while doing the activity. Upload the photo and take the survey about your Challenge experience. [www.tinyurl.com/KS4HChallenge](http://www.tinyurl.com/KS4HChallenge)

## Local Contact Information

## Share

- Complete an entry in the Kansas 4-H Sportfishing Tournament.
- Share what you've learned through a project talk for your club or at an educational event.
- Plan a community service event related to conservation, stewardship or fishing education.

## Self-Evaluation After

Using the rating scale below, answer the following:

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## Kansas Clover Classroom

Adapted from NW 4-H Advisor. Project Challenge created by 4-H Youth Development agents Daniel Skucius, Pottawatomie County, and McKenzie Smithson, Butler County.



# Sportfishing Challenge

To test your fishing skills, plan a fishing trip with a goal in mind! Pick out a species or species group and use your new found skills to try and obtain a length goal! Don't forget to document what happened. Keep the reflection in one location and keeping adding to it to create a fishing journal.

Species Category	Suggested Length Goal	Mastery Length Goal
Catfish	15 inches	33 inches
Bluegill	6 inches	10 inches
Crappie	10 inches	15 inches
Black Bass	15 inches	18 inches
White Bass	12 inches	15 inches
Walleye	15 inches	27 inches
Any Non-sport Fish	15 inches	25 inches

Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Date/Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Weather: \_\_\_\_\_

Water Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

Target Species: \_\_\_\_\_

Technique and Tackle: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Sportfishing Challenge

## Post Trip Summary and Reflection

Species	Quantity	Longest (inches)

Trip Summary: \_\_\_\_\_

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What would you do differently?: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Example Tournament Document. New Rules Released Each Year

# KANSAS 4-H SPORTFISHING TOURNAMENT 2021

The Kansas 4-H Sportfishing Tournament is open to all 4-H members. The contest runs throughout the year and ends September 15, 2021. Anglers can fish year round but entries must be in by the deadline, fish caught after the deadline may be entered in the next contest. Participants can enter in any species/categories that they catch fish – go fishing and have fun!!!

One 4-H Angler of the Year will be named in each of the species/category listed below. These are fish commonly found in Kansas waters. Each Angler of the Year will receive a 4-H Sportfishing cap, a frameable certificate, and a Wal-Mart gift certificate to hopefully be used for fishing equipment (one per individual). All participants that enter a certified entry will receive a 4-H Sportfishing cap or a gift certificate.

### The following species will make up the contest:

Species/Category	Minimum length for entry
Catfish (Channel, Flathead, or Blue Cat)	15"
Sunfish (Bluegill, Green Sunfish, Hybrid Sunfish)	6"
Crappie (Black or White)	10"
Black Bass (Largemouth or Smallmouth)	15"
Carp or Drum (Any Rough Fish)	15"
Other Game Fish (Walleye, Saugeye, White Bass, Wiper, Striper, Trout)	15"

### RULES:

1. Must be enrolled in 4-H but do not have to be in the Sportfishing Project.
2. Entry must be measured by length, verified by a witness and be accompanied by a photo of the entry. (This is a minimum entry to receive a cap.) Please use the 2021 entry form.
3. To compete for Angler of the Year Award the entry must also be weighed and witnessed (digital hand scale is acceptable, no spring scales please.) Only one Angler of the Year award per individual will be awarded. If a participant is selected as first in a species/category their additional entries will not be considered in subsequent classes. We want to recognize as many participants as possible.
4. Fish can be caught anywhere in the state of Kansas.
5. Fish must be caught by a legal method as outlined in the current Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism Fishing Regulations Summary.
6. Entries must be postmarked by September 15th or e-mailed by that date.. Winners will be announced around October 1, 2021. Every effort will be made to have the awards available to the counties by their achievement awards program for presentation at the program or sent directly to the winners – please indicate on your entry form which you prefer and the date of your Achievement Banquet if that is your preference.
7. Entries are to be submitted to Tommie Berger 406 S. New York Ave. Sylvan Grove, KS 67481.  
bergkwf@wtciweb.com 785-524-6112

**Example Tournament Document. New Rules Released Each Year**



**4-H Sportfishing Tournament  
2021 Entry Form  
Tournament ends September 15th**



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ Leader/Agent \_\_\_\_\_

L/A Address & Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Achievement Banquet \_\_\_\_\_

Specie/Category \_\_\_\_\_

Weight Digital Scale only \_\_\_\_\_

Length (mouth closed and tail pinched) \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Catch \_\_\_\_\_

Date Caught \_\_\_\_\_

Witnessed by \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Angler \_\_\_\_\_

Attach picture and send to:

Tommie Berger                      bergkwf@wtciweb.com  
406 S. New York Ave.              785-524-6112  
Sylvan Grove, KS 67481

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**Local Contact Information**



**Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service**

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