

Take a Kid Fishing Program Overview

Intent: Create positive public relations between local Montana communities and fishing outfitters.

Method: Coordinate with local youth groups, elementary schools, high schools, or parents to offer a day of guided fishing for young Montanans.

Resources: Fishing outfitters and guides, young Montanans, youth group or school administrators, parents, outreach participants, local businesses (lunches, drinks, etc.), city councils, chambers of commerce, etc.

Administration: Fishing outfitters or guides should plan and provide actual on-the-water activities, such as fishing/casting tutorials and river/lake fishing. Safety, ethics and resource responsibilities should be emphasized.

Youth coordinators should create participant selection guidelines, recruitment, and actual selection. Accompanying sample form from Sleeping Giant Middle School in Livingston shows one example for recruitment and selection. Less stringent models may allow better participation, though final responsibility rests with youth coordinators themselves.

Regulation, Safety, Responsibility: Only licensed, insured fishing outfitters and guides may provide on-water services according to state regulations and should provide adequate life-vests for all participants in their care.

Youth coordinators and participating outfitters or guides should work out transportation within accepted local insurance and protection guidelines, which may be as simple as parents bringing kids to and from the water.

All participating youth/parents must sign Acknowledgement of Risk forms as required by our liability insurance carrier.

Based on one successful trial in Livingston, the TAKF program is a quality outreach experiment that warrants continued FOAM and local community support.

Helpful Hints:

- 1) Target kids in middle schools - they seem most interested.
- 2) Contact the middle school Principal or science teacher(s) or outdoor coordinator. Experience shows these are the best contacts.
- 3) Ask local businesses to contribute lunches, transportation, fishing gear.
- 4) Contact the local paper, have them send out a features reporter, get pictures and interviews with guides, teachers, and the kids.
- 5) Limit the outing to 5 or 6 hours at the most.
- 6) Fix up one guide for two kids - like a standard guided trip.
- 7) Try early spring while kids are still in school and guides are working less.
- 8) Use licensed and insured FOAM guides.