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U.S. ARMY MANEUVER SUPPORT CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FT. LEONARD WOOD, MISSOURI



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **13th annual Kid's Catfishing Derby is June 13**

**FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo.** – Dust off your fishing pole, grab some catfish-tempting bait and join the fun during the 13th annual Kid's Catfishing Derby co-sponsored by the Outdoor Adventure Center and the Natural Resources Branch of Fort Leonard Wood.

This year's event will be held on June 13. All fishing permits will be waived for this event, and no pre-registration is needed. Kids can register at the pond, starting at 9 a.m. on derby day, with registration ending at 11 a.m. Fishing will begin at 10 a.m. and end at noon.

This event will be held rain or shine, so participants should dress accordingly and bring bug spray and sunscreen if necessary.

The pond at Training Area 228 will again be the site of the fishing derby. This one-acre pond can be reached by taking Iowa Avenue south toward Range Control, turning right onto FLW Route 38, traveling west until you see the sign for the derby parking area on your left. Directional signs leading from the main gate to the pond will be posted.

All children ages 3 to 15 will be allowed to fish for catfish. Parents can help ensure an enjoyable outing by considering their youngster's age and abilities. While there is no minimum age to participate in this event, derby sponsors have found that many children younger than age 4 do not have the patience or physical skills needed to hold a fishing pole, cast, set a hook and reel in a fish.

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Adults are welcome to give young anglers a helping hand and lots of fishing tips, but will not be allowed to fish themselves. The focus of the derby is to make sure that all children have fun; and children have the most fun when they can claim that they “caught a catfish all by themselves.”

Children are encouraged to bring their own fishing tackle and bait; however, the Natural Resources Branch will have a few fishing poles available to loan to children on a first-come, first-served basis. Because of the past popularity and nature of this event, children will be allowed to fish with only one pole during the derby.

To ensure a good time, this pond will be stocked with 500 hungry, channel catfish ranging from one to four pounds, with fish averaging about two pounds apiece. Each young angler will be allowed to keep up to three channel catfish during the derby. Any young angler who catches one of 20 catfish that has a red tag will get to choose from a group of special prizes.

As always, the Outdoor Adventure Center, along with local businesses, will provide free food and refreshments. Restroom facilities (porta-potties) will be available; however, no running water is available on site.

Kids will still be allowed to fish after the official end of the derby. However, the daily limit of three catfish and the children-only rules will remain in effect until 8 a.m., June 15, when the regulations for the pond will revert to the normal daily limit of four catfish for anglers of any age. The special regulations for the weekend will also be posted at the pond and enforced by the post game wardens.

For more information, contact the staff of the Outdoor Adventure Center, located in Building 2290 on FLW Route K, at 573.596.0131, ext. 64223, or the Natural Resources Branch Office at Building 2222 on First Street at ext. 67604.

*(Editor’s note: Kampinga is a fisheries biologist with Fort Leonard Wood’s Natural Resources Branch.)*

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For more information contact the Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office at 573.563.4145.

### *About Fort Leonard Wood*

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*Fort Leonard Wood is a thriving and prosperous installation that has evolved from a small basic training post 70 years ago to a premier Army Center of Excellence that trains about 80,000 military and civilians each year.*

*Home to the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence, Fort Leonard Wood now trains and educates service members and develops doctrine and capabilities for the Training*

*and Doctrine Command's U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear School, U.S. Army Engineer School, and U.S. Army Military Police School, three gender integrated Initial Military Training brigades, one of only four reception stations in the Army, and the Army's largest Noncommissioned Officers Academy.*

*Over the past several years, Fort Leonard Wood has received numerous additional responsibilities to include supporting the 4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, a large Forces Command unit that is responsible for all deployable capabilities at Fort Leonard Wood. A colonel-commanded Marine Corps Detachment and an Air Force Detachment, which are both the largest on any Army installation, are located on Fort Leonard Wood; a large Navy Seabee Detachment and elements of the Coast Guard train here as well.*

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