

# Weather Policy & Safety

For the safety of our children and parents, all water events may be postponed and rescheduled if the weather is threatening. This is determined the evening prior to our scheduled fishing. It is our safety policy that rain and/or thunderstorms within an hour of our event at 40% or greater will mean a postponement notification. While disappointing to reschedule, safety is top priority. While individuals who sign up or participate in outdoor events assume risks, the organizers will use good sense not to put our event kids or parents in danger. If the event is scheduled on a lake with lightning warning system, we can rely on this system to warn us of incoming danger. **12 hours prior to the event**, the hourly weather is very accurate once around the 12-hour window. If there are thunderstorms and consistent rain the day of, it will be safer and far better to reschedule the night before. We will not make any exceptions with the rain threat at 40% or greater on the day of.

## Rescheduling

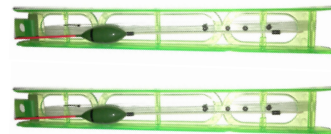
Moving the event slighter later in the day, if available, will be one of the rescheduling options. If the event is postponed, we will contact you the evening before and discuss rescheduling. Many times the next day or next weekend are good options. We can also do weekday nights a couple days following the event to give you a chance to notify your guests. We will work to get your party hooking fish as soon as we can lock in a date where everyone likes the best.

## Safety Waiver

All guests should acknowledge a safety waiver releasing the party host as well as the guide from any injury. Any attendee acknowledges the fact that this is an outdoor activity and that slips or falls can occur from the pond-side terrain. Attendees will be using fishing hooks and the possibility of injury is low, but does exist. The host, helpers and guide will try to prevent behaviors that would add danger to our event. In the event of an injury, parents acknowledge that they are responsible for their child participating in a fishing event.



Speed Fishing Poles



Pro Pole Rigs

## Your Fishing Gear

The gear is prepared by USA Fishing Team's Johnny Wilkins who has appeared in 3 World Championships for The United States. The fishing gear is very similar to the gear that currently holds the shore fishing World Record for 2,011 fish caught in 24 hours on a public pond. The fishing gear used are speed fishing poles with no reels. This is the fastest and most proven method for catching lots of fish and the best you can use for shore fishing. The gear is both inexpensive and easy-to-use. You can shop for fishing gear that catches tons of fish at our store: [www.livebaitfishingtackle.com](http://www.livebaitfishingtackle.com) . We offer poles custom-rigged as well as the extra pole fishing rigs. A rig is a spare (bright green holder) in case of tangle or breakage. Having spares means that you can get back to fishing. We recommend 2 poles so you have two all set to fish every time you go. The backup comes in handy!

## Fishing Locations

In order of best fishing and facilities, we use the following locations:

**Downers Grove** - Barth Pond West End of Pond. This end of the pond has a playground. This has a lightning detection system which assists us in safer outings on days where lightning maybe in the area towards the beginning or end of our event. Currently, the facility does not have any restroom due to the Covid outbreak. This is the most consistent fishing lake in our area. Many kids have set their personal record for fish caught at this lake.

### **Oak Brook Terrace - REI Back Lot (entrance at back of lot on right).**

Terrace View Park - offers a nature trail and also does not have rest rooms at this time. The best parking is the back of the REI lot - there is a small parking lot on the North End of the park, but it is very limited. There is also a playground by the small lot. We recommend you park in the REI lot and walk through the fence door to the park. This lake can also be very good for numbers of fish.

### **Orland Hills - Ashbourne Lake**

This lake is to the South and fishes well. Parking isn't as good, the fishing can be quite good. This is a residential area and parking is on the street. Watch for no parking areas. Fishes well most of the time. This lake is managed catch-and-release. On your own, you will need a fishing permit of \$10 per year to fish it.

### **Arlington Heights - Lake Arlington**

Located on Windsor Drive, this lake is catch-and-release and offers good parking, a playground and great fishing. This lake is on the larger side and has a decent-sized walk down a hill to fish. The lake usually has concessions and bathrooms, but they are subject to closings. Please check with the Arlington Heights park district to see if the facilities are open.

### **Other Lakes**

While you can choose a public pond (or private pond - if you have a private pond). We can not guarantee fish-catching everywhere as some locations could be too shallow or have thick weeds which would inhibit catching. We DO fish at lakes you pick, but won't guarantee kids set the record for fish caught.

## Party Hosting Tips

Some find it easiest to do food after the fishing, and others feel like before the fishing is best and cleaner. Cupcakes seem pretty popular compared to any cake on birthdays. Wrapped snacks are easy to transport with a cooler for drinks.

Good things to bring:

- Hand Sanitizer
- Band-aids
- Sanitizing Wipes
- Emergency contact list for guests
- Towels

## Day of Contact Number

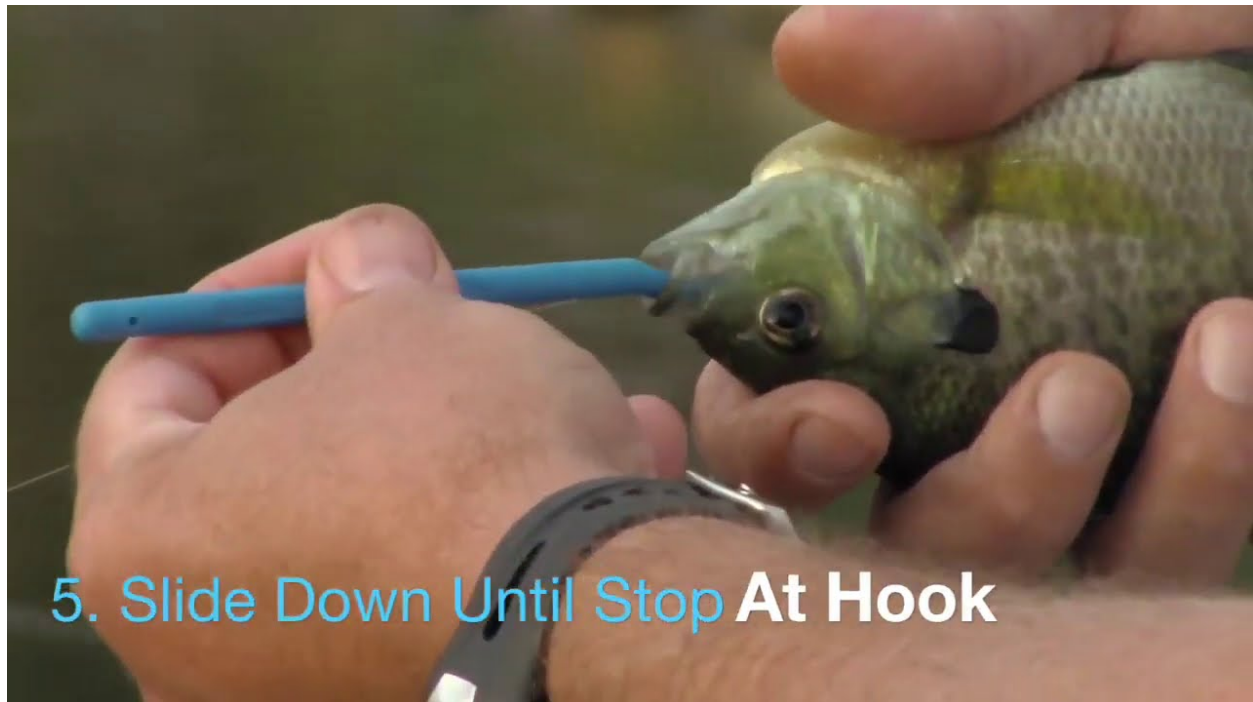
Chicago Fishing School day of contact information: **630.235.2162**

**You can text or call for info the day of or the night before 24/7**

### **Parent Helpers Volunteers Wanted**

Our equipment is designed to catch a ton of fish. During parties, we often have multiple fish on hooks. Welcome parent volunteers to help take fish off the hooks. We need 3,4 or 5 volunteers to assist in keeping kids spaced out and helping get fish off hooks. They can also be helpful in re-baiting hooks. Having a few volunteers helps us to catch more and more fish.

Helpers are encouraged to watch this video on hook removal:



### **Tips to for guests:**

- Wear Good Covered Toe Shoes With Grip! (Some shoes have better tread than others and prevent slips). We will fish outdoors near the water and shoes may get dirty or wet - it is important to have slip-resistant shoes that protect toes. The terrain can hurt toes with sandals. Good shoes will prevent falls.
- Wear a shirt that can get "fishy".
- Sunblock
- Hats are great for this event and offer protection!
- Sunglasses or any glasses are also great.
- Individuals may bring a water bottle - if the host doesn't have drinks.
- Any medical conditions. These should be forwarded to the host / hostess. Any medical condition which restricts a child from outdoor activities with germs, dirt or problems negotiating terrain should mean the child may have the parent attend to supervise their own child.