

KID'S FISH IN

SATURDAY, APRIL 25TH

PRESENTED BY **Rotary**
Longview Early Edition



COME FISH WITH US! THE FISHING AREA WILL BE NETTED WITH OVER 2,500 TROUT. EACH PARTICIPANT WILL RECEIVE A HOT DOG, CHIPS, DRINK, GOODY BAG, AND A ROD AND REEL TO KEEP!

APRIL 25TH, 2026
HOURLY SESSIONS: 8 AM - 4 PM
MARTINS DOCK, LAKE SACAJAWEA

AGES 5 - 14
\$10/CHILD

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE WASHINGTON DEPT. OF FISH & WILDLIFE, COWLITZ GAME AND ANGLERS, MT. ST. HELENS BASS MASTERS, LOWER COLUMBIA FLY FISHERS, LONGVIEW PIONEER LIONS, R.A. LONG STUDENT VOLUNTEERS, & LONGVIEW EARLY EDITION ROTARY

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED!

CALL 360-442-5400 OR VISIT WWW.MYLONGVIEW.COM/REC



**PARKS &
RECREATION**

CITY OF LONGVIEW



2026 LAKE SACAJAWEA KID'S FISH-IN

The Annual Kid's Fish-In is held at Lake Sacajawea located in Longview, Washington. The event is presented by the Longview Early Edition Rotary Club in collaboration with Longview Parks & Recreation and is scheduled to occur every year on the last Saturday in April. This year's event is April 25.

We serve 450 children between the ages of 5 and 14 who will fish during one of (9) 45 minute-long sessions from a netted area containing 2,500 rainbow trout provided by 2 local fish hatcheries. Participants receive hands-on instruction from local volunteer fishing experts, a rod and reel to take home, up to 2 fish they catch, packets containing coupons, merchandise, recipes, and guides to Youth Fishing in Washington locations and rules, and lunches. Additionally, we provide the opportunity to fish free of charge on the Friday prior to the event to 10-20 community members with developmental disabilities. They receive hands-on instruction from volunteers and can fish until they catch at least 2 trout. Our core goal is to encourage interest in and make fishing and outdoor-recreation accessible to all youth in our community.

AND: They receive a FREE hot dog lunch prepared by the Pioneer Lions Club. The hot dogs are donated by Foster Farms, the buns and water are donated by the Pioneer Lions Club and the chips are donated by the Mt. St. Helens Bassmasters.

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS EVENT?

The National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Census Bureau, reported both a significant decrease in participation rates of children in the U.S. over the past 20 years, but also significant differences in youth participation rates based on family income levels. According to the study, only 18% of 6-15 year olds had fished in 2011, compared to 38% in 1995. Of those that fished, children from families with incomes less than \$75,000 had significantly lower participation rates than those from higher income families. Nearly 70% of the

families with children living in the Longview area have household incomes lower than \$75,000, and 26% of the children in Longview live below the poverty line. We feel a large number of our local families face a cost-burden that prevents young children from being able to participate in fishing and other wildlife-related outdoor activities. By providing participants with a rod and reel to take home, along with expert instruction on how to fish, how to prepare fish they have caught, coupons, other fishing equipment, and guides to nearby family-friendly fishing locations, we are empowering children and their families to pursue outdoor recreation and fishing in the future.

Longview Early Edition Rotary leads a committee conducting the fundraising, volunteer recruitment, and event coordination for the event. Volunteers from local fishing clubs, civic clubs, emergency responders and the community contribute over 1,000 hours of service to the event, providing fishing instruction at the event, preparing equipment and gift bags, and coordinating donations and the event itself. The City of Longview Parks and Recreation Department collaborates in the planning and execution of the event, and oversees participant registration. We coordinate with a Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife representative for delivery of hatchery trout to Lake Sacajawea for the event.

By providing rods and reels to participants, we remove a major cost barrier preventing children in our economically depressed region from access to fishing as an outdoor activity. We provide education and equipment that teaches them to fish properly and direct them to appropriate family-friendly fishing locations, encouraging future participation and increasing the use of our local wildlife areas. The event allows many children who otherwise would not have the opportunity to experience fish and wildlife in our area to connect with and cultivate an appreciation of our natural resources. The fishing rods retail for \$27 each for a total cost of \$12,000. We are able to get them for \$13.50 through a non-profit family fishing program at Zebco. In the past, we've been able to pay the remaining expense for the rods through an ALEA Grant (Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account) from the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife. Last year we were informed that this grant program has been dropped because of state budget cuts.

The Kid's Fish-In has become a 25-year tradition in Longview that instills excitement in local youth, their families, and volunteers as children learn from local experts how to bait, cast, and reel in fish they catch themselves with fishing reels and rods they get to take home. This unique benefit sets this fishing event apart from others in our area: not only do we strive to give children the skills and knowledge necessary to inspire a life-long interest in the outdoors and wildlife-related recreation, we give them equipment that might otherwise be a cost-barrier to developing a love for this family-friendly sport.

**For more information on sponsoring, donating and volunteering:
Contact Tom Gunn at 360-423-1237 or email at tgunn@reproprinting.com**

Rotary 
Club of Longview-Early Edition