

NEW! Statewide Fishing Club with Iowa 4-H

Casting Across Iowa 4-H

The Statewide Fishing Club with Iowa 4-H is an immersive program designed to engage youth across Iowa in grades 4-12. This club focuses on Iowa's aquatic ecosystems, improving fishing techniques, and promoting environmental stewardship.

Whether you're looking to become a skilled angler or just want to try a new outdoor hobby, this program will enhance your connection to nature and foster a lifelong passion for fishing!

Through hands-on activities, webinars, and tournaments, members gain skills in fishing, fish identification, lure tying, water safety, and more, all while connecting with Iowa's natural beauty.



Program Structure

The club consists of three engaging parts:

- **Tournament Kick-off Webinars** – Prepares members with expert insights for each species.
- **Three Months of Tournaments** – Monthly species-focused competitions. Tournaments are self-led during the month-long period.
- **Fishing Skills Webinar Series** – Virtual learning with hands on components for advancing skills.

Tournament Kick-Off Webinar Dates

Trout: April 28, 7:00-8:00 PM
Bluegill: May 27, 7:00-8:00 PM
Catfish: June 29, 7:00-8:00 PM

Tournament Dates

Trout Tournament: May 1-31, 2025
Bluegill Tournament: June 1-30, 2025
Catfish Tournament: July 1-31, 2025

Fishing Skills Webinar Series Dates

Iowa's Aquatic Ecosystem/Water & Sun Safety June 11, 8:30-9:30 AM
Fishing Techniques and Tackle June 18, 8:30-9:30 AM
Enjoy the Catch: Cooking and Cleaning Fish June 25, 8:30-9:30 AM

Links for virtual sessions will be sent to enrolled members one week prior to the session.





How to Join

Members enroll using 4-H Online. Enrollment and event registration are both required to participate.

1. To join, enroll using 4-H Online. Help sheets for creating a profile are available <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/4-h-online>
2. Choose your county and “Statewide Fishing Club.” If you are currently an Iowa 4-H member, choose “Statewide Fishing Club” as a secondary club in your profile.
3. Choose “Outdoor Adventures” from the project list. Current members skip to step five.
4. Next a county Extension and Outreach staff will approve your enrollment (this may take a few days).
5. Once approved, login to your 4-H Online profile and choose events from the left-hand menu.
6. Find and select “Iowa 4-H Fishing Club” and complete the steps.
7. A \$45 annual fee applies and will be assessed in the event tab. Financial support is available through the [Iowa 4-H Foundation](https://www.extension.iastate.edu/legal) or contact your local ISU Extension and Outreach office.

What to expect

Alright, anglers, listen up! Before casting the line, there’s a few things to do first.

1. Register in 4-H Online.
2. If you are under the age of 16 in Iowa, you are not required to have a fishing license but may need to purchase a trout stamp if fishing on your own.
3. If you are 16 years or older you are required to purchase a fishing license and trout stamp. For more licensing and permit guidance refer to Iowa DNR. <https://www.iowadnr.gov/things-do/fishing/fishing-licenses>
4. Next, you’ll need to acquire the right fishing rod and reel for your fish and fishing style.
5. Gather essentials like hooks, sinkers, and bait (live or artificial).
6. Most importantly, always stay alert to your environment. Pay attention to water conditions like currents, and potential hazards like rocks or submerged objects. Take necessary precautions like wearing a life jacket if on water.
7. Be mindful of weather changes. When it comes to sun safety, protect yourself from harmful UV rays by wearing sunscreen, a hat, and UV-blocking clothing, stay hydrated and take breaks in the shade.
8. Tell a trusted adult where you plan to go, and when you plan to return.

This program is supported by the Iowa 4-H Foundation, Iowa 4-H, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, and Iowa State University.

The fees for service will be used to offset direct expenses and to support the Iowa 4-H Youth Development Program.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. For the full non-discrimination statement or accommodation inquiries, go to www.extension.iastate.edu/legal

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