

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, career exposure 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!

Membership is just \$45, which includes eligibility to participate in all club tournaments. Please note, all tournaments are restricted to fishing in Iowa. Tournament winners will receive prizes, generously sponsored by the Iowa 4-H Foundation, and every tournament entry earns a chance to win the grand prize at the end of the year.

Beyond the competitions, members will gain access to educational resources, interactive challenges, and opportunities to connect with fellow youth who share an interest in the outdoors. So, grab your gear, cast your line, and get ready for a year of learning and fishing fun with Iowa 4-H!



Program Structure

The club consists of live webinars, self-guided tournaments and hands-on learning.

- **Tournament Kick-off Webinars** – Virtual meetings prepare members with expert insights for each species.
- **Tournaments** – Four, self-led species-focused competitions, and four open-species windows spanning over eight months of the year. Tournaments are self-led.

What to Expect

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

- Register in 4-H Online as a member, and register through the events tab to make payment.
- 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.
- If you are 16 years or older you are required to purchase a fishing license and trout stamp (when applicable). For more licensing and permit guidance refer to Iowa DNR. <https://www.iowadnr.gov/things-do/fishing/fishing-licenses>.
- Next, you'll need to acquire the right fishing rod and reel for your fish and fishing style.
- Gather essentials like hooks, sinkers, and bait (live or artificial).
- 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.
- 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.
- Tell a trusted adult where you plan to go, and when you plan to return.



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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 already 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.

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

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



Schedule of Events – 2026-27

Date	Time	Topic	Location
September 21	7:00 PM	Welcome and Tournament Kick-off	Zoom
September 22	12:00 AM	Bass Tournament Opens	Iowa, on your own
November 8	11:59 PM	Bass Tournament Closes	
November 16	7:00 PM	Outdoor Insights	Zoom
December 28	9:30 AM	Ice Fishing and Tournament Kick-off	Zoom
December 28	12:00 AM	Ice Fishing Tournament Opens	Iowa, on your own
February 22	7:00 PM	Outdoor Insights	Zoom
March 1	11:59 PM	Crappie and Perch Tournament Closes	
March 29	7:00 PM	Tournament Kick-off	Zoom
March 30	12:00 AM	Trout and Walleye Tournament Opens	Iowa, on your own
May 31	11:59 PM	Trout and Walleye Tournament Closes	
June 7	9:30 AM	Tournament Kick-off Webinar	Zoom
June 7	12:00 AM	Bluegill and Catfish Tournament Opens	Iowa, on your own
July 31	11:59 PM	Bluegill and Catfish Tournament Closes	
August 9	9:30 AM	Final Cast Year End Celebration and Grand Prize Drawing	Zoom