

NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY IN GEORGIA

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

Each day, millions of Americans are working to conserve and improve our natural resources. They are **America's hunters and anglers**. Sportsmen have contributed millions of dollars to the Federal Aid in Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Programs. Together with hunting and fishing license fees, these federal aid programs have funded wildlife and sport fish conservation, habitat acquisition and outdoor recreation opportunities both in Georgia and throughout the country.

NHF Day events provide an opportunity for everyone to learn more about outdoor skills and activities.

FREE FISHING DAY: In honor of National Hunting and Fishing Day, Georgia residents do not need a fishing license or a trout license to fish on any public waters in the state including lakes, streams, ponds and Public Fishing Areas on Sept. 26, 2026.



HUNT • SHOOT • FISH



georgiawildlife.com/get-involved/nhfday

All listed events will take place on Saturday, September 26, 2026, and are FREE and open to the public, unless otherwise noted.

AREA OF STATE	EVENT	CONTACT AND INFORMATION	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT INFORMATION
Northwest Georgia	Outdoor Adventure Day	Park Office 706.857.0826	10 am – 4 pm	James H. "Sloppy" Floyd State Park GaStateParks.org/JamesHFloyd	Come join us for an Outdoor Adventure Day and Kid's Fishing Rodeo at James H. "Sloppy" Floyd State Park. Event will be from 10am to 4pm. Kids 15 and under can try their hand at catching tagged catfish to win prizes. Bring your own fishing poles and bait (today is a Free Fishing Day so Georgia residents do not need a fishing license). There will be archery opportunities, a birds of prey show, a climbing wall, a dunk tank and a reptile show. Note: the event is free, but there is a \$10 per vehicle parking fee at the Park.
Northeast Georgia	Kids Fishing Event	Forsyth Cumming Optimists Club & Kiwanis Club 404.402.0261	9 am – 1 pm	Lower Pool Park (below Buford Dam) (3600 Buford Dam Road, Cumming GA 30041)	Kids attending this event can fish, try out fly tying, and view fishing demos. Volunteers will be on hand to help with baiting hooks and removing fish. The GA DNR Trout Stocking staff will stock some fish at the Dam for the event. Participants can assist DNR with stocking trout into the river. To participate, bring a clean, 5-gallon bucket for carrying fish and arrive by 9am. A limited number of loaner poles will be available. Bait provided. Life jackets REQUIRED. Hot dogs, drinks and snacks provided. Event sponsored by the Forsyth Cummings Optimist Club & Kiwanis Club.

Central Georgia	Family Fishing Event	Daniel Malcom 470.259.7269	8 am – 12 pm	Marben Public Fishing Area (Boar Pond) <i>GeorgiaWildlife.com/marben-pfa</i>	Let's Go Fishing! This event is for the entire family, all ages, and any level of fishing experience. We encourage participants to bring their own rods/reels, bait, water/snacks, chairs, sunscreen/sunglasses, and excitement. Fishing poles and bait available on a first come, first served basis. We will have staff onsite to assist anyone wanting to learn more about fishing. Children are required to have adult supervision. Anglers are ONLY allowed to harvest from the pond during a scheduled WRD fishing event, but may not exceed the daily harvest limits posted at Marben PFA or the Fishing Event Pond. Directions: The closest address to Boar Pond is 3131 Shepherd Road. Once you have turned off Hwy 11 onto Shepherd Road there will be signs posted to lead you to the event pond.
Central Georgia	Family Fishing Event	Amory Cook 478.283.7041	8 am – 12 pm	Flat Creek Public Fishing Area <i>GeorgiaWildlife.com/flat-creek-pfa</i>	Let's Go Fishing! This event is for the entire family, all ages, and any level of fishing experience. We encourage participants to bring their own rods/reels, bait, water/snacks, chairs, sunscreen/sunglasses, and excitement. We will have some fishing poles and bait available for anyone wanting to fish. We will have staff onsite to assist anyone wanting to learn more about fishing. Children are required to have adult supervision. Anglers may not exceed the daily harvest limits posted at Flat Creek PFA.
Central Georgia	Fishing Basics Class	Chrystal Sherwood 478-988-7192	10 am – 12 pm	Fishing Basics Class	Join us on Sat. Sept. 26 (National Hunting and Fishing Day) for a Fishing Basics class at the Go Fish Education Center in Perry, GA. The class will be from 10am-12 Noon at the Go Fish Education Center Classroom (and then out by the casting pond). During the class, we will cover fishing equipment, types of fish, how to cast and much more. Fishing equipment will be provided. Fishing is catch and release. Parents are required to stay with children age 14 and younger. Children must be at least 8 years old to attend. The class has a minimal cost (\$8/adults, \$7/Senior or Military, \$6 children ages 8-12, free to annual pass holders) but does include admission to the Go Fish Education Center. Participants can continue to fish at the conclusion of the class. IMPORTANT NOTE: <u>You must register for this event by emailing Chrystal Sherwood (chrystal.sherwood@dnr.ga.gov).</u> Space is limited.

West Central Georgia	Kids Fishing Event	Jay Williams 678.767.3058	8 – 11 am	Big Lazer Public Fishing Area Special Event Pond <i>GeorgiaWildlife.com/big-lazer-creek-pfa</i>	Come join us at this fun fishing event for kids age 15 and under. There is a limit of 5 catfish/angler and we will have a drawing for some fun prizes! Directions: from Talbotton: East on US Highway 80 for 4 miles; left on Po Bidy Road for 6.4 miles; left on Bunkham Road; left into area.
East Central Georgia	Kids Fishing Event	Chalisa Fabillar 706.699.1370	8 am – 12 pm	McDuffie Public Fishing Area <i>GeorgiaWildlife.com/mcduffie-pfa</i>	Come join us for a fun morning of fishing, wildlife encounters, archery, and more! This event is for kids age 3-15 and from 8am to noon. For anyone bringing participants, make sure to bring your own rods/reels, bait, water/snacks, chairs, sunscreen/sunglasses, and excitement. Staff will be on-site to assist anyone wanting to learn more about fishing. Children must have adult supervision. Anglers may ONLY harvest from the event pond during scheduled WRD fishing events (PFA daily harvest limits apply). After the event, visitors are encouraged to explore the PFA to discover the short nature trail through a longleaf pine/sandhills habitat, the archery range with 3D targets, covered pavilions with grilling areas, 6 managed fishing lakes, and a newly renovated campground. (One lake, Beaver Lodge, is currently undergoing renovation and not open for fishing.)
Southeast Georgia	Kids Fishing Event	Travis Hudson 478.296.6192	8 am – 12 pm	Hugh M. Gillis Public Fishing Area <i>GeorgiaWildlife.com/hugh-m-gillis-pfa</i>	Kids' Fishing Events are the perfect place to introduce young anglers to fishing. Ponds have been stocked with channel catfish for youth under the age of 16 to catch. Participants should bring their own rods, reels, tackle and bait. Don't forget the worms. Oh, and bring a cooler because you can keep your catch!
Southeast Georgia	Kids Fishing Event	Caleb Mills 912.346.1482	8 am – 12 pm	Evans County Public Fishing Area <i>GeorgiaWildlife.com/evans-county-pfa</i>	Come join us for a great day of fishing! This fun event is for kids ages 15 and under. Bring your own fishing pole and bait.

South Central Georgia	Outdoor Adventure Day/JAKES Day	Dean Barber or WRD Waycross Fisheries Office 229.533.4792 or 912.285.6094	Fishing Activities (7:30 am – 12 Noon) JAKES Day Events (9 am - 2 pm)	Paradise Public Fishing Area <i>GeorgiaWildlife.com/paradise-pfa</i>	Bring the kids for a day of outdoor family fun! Fishing (fishing activities are 7:30 am – 12 noon): Kids Fishing Events at Lake Cup & Lake Saucer (kids should be age 15 and under, adults must have a child to fish in these ponds). JAKES Day events begin at 9 am: Take a shot at our Ranges (Archery, BB gun, Skeet), the Georgia Hunting & Fishing Federation's fishing simulator, and visit Displays/Exhibits from Georgia Forestry Commission, ABAC Forestry Wildlife, and Ga Reptile Society/Georgia Herpetological Association and Rescue. Free water and snacks provided by the Mell Baptist Association. There will be a casting contest (9:30 am) and a prize drawing after lunch. There will be a free lunch (12 Noon) provided by the National Wild Turkey Federation.
Southeast Georgia	Kids Fishing Event	Caleb Mills		Evans County Public Fishing Area <i>GeorgiaWildlife.com/evans-county-pfa</i>	
Coastal Georgia	Outdoor Adventure Day	Frank Buchanan 912.346.9741	8 am – 12 pm	Richmond Hill Hatchery <i>GeorgiaWildlife.com/richmond-hill-fish-hatchery</i>	This event is open to ALL ages. Activities will include fishing, archery and kayaking.