

# KY Fish and Wildlife Department encourages safe summer boating

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources is continuing to remind Kentuckians to be safe as they get out on the water and roads during the upcoming summer months.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife encourages boaters to follow simple steps to minimize injuries and accidents. The goal is always zero accidents, which cannot happen without everyone taking the proper safety precautions.

Tips when heading out on the water:

- Wear a Life Jacket - Kentucky law requires each occupant of a boat to have ready access to a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket that properly fits each person. Children younger than 12 must at all times wear a life-jacket that fits them while in the open portion of a boat that is underway. Life Jacket Loaner Stations, available in a growing number of locations across the state, allow boating parties to borrow life jackets temporarily. Make wearing your life jacket and engine kill switch a habit for you and your passengers.
- Boat Sober - Every year, alcohol is the leading cause of injuries and accidents on Kentucky waterways. Oftentimes, this leads to individuals leaving the lake and driving under the influence (DUI), putting everyone on the roadways in danger. Operating a vehicle or boat under the influence (BUI) is extremely dangerous, impairs judgment and reaction time, and is illegal.

- Take a Safe Boating Course - Familiarize yourself with Kentucky boating laws, regulations, and navigation rules before heading out with an easy online Boater Education Class.
- Stay Weather Aware - Check the weather forecast and be prepared for changing conditions. Sudden storms or rough waters can pose significant dangers. Always have a reliable means of communication onboard to receive weather updates.
- File a Float Plan - Let someone know your boating plans before you get on the water. File a Float Plan with a friend or family member detailing your itinerary. In the event of an emergency, this information can be

crucial for rescuers.

Call 911 for emergencies. For assistance while on the water, call 800-25-ALERT (800-252-5378) or contact a local law enforcement agency or nearest Kentucky State Police post. Marine channel 16 can be used to contact a local marina.

The Fish Boat KY smartphone app, available for iOS and Android, allows boaters to buy a fishing license, find directions to local lakes, read fishing reports, learn about regulations, find fish stocking schedules, locate the nearest boat ramp and more. Download the app at Fish Boat KY App on the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife website (fw.ky.gov) or search for "Fish Boat KY" in your preferred app store.

Additional boating information can be found on Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's website at Boating - Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife. The department's 2025-2026 Kentucky Fishing and Boating Guide also provides basic boating information, including regulations, and can be viewed online or printed to keep in a boat or other type of vessel.

Kentucky boat registrations expire April 30 each year, so owners who haven't already done so must renew them through their county clerk's office.

Questions on boating, regulations, education and more may be directed to the agency's information center at 800-858-1549, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (ET) weekdays, excluding state holidays.

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**King Crossword**

**Answers**

**Solution time: 26 mins.**

# Kentucky Free Fishing Days June 7-8

## Licenses, permits not required to fish this weekend

Step aside, Black Friday. You just can't top the 100% discount on fishing licenses being offered during the first weekend of June.

Take your family to the water June 7-8 and enjoy fishing for free both days.

But be careful – you just might enjoy it so much that you'll want to go again and again.

The weekend pass doesn't entitle you to hop your neighbor's fence and access their pond. You always need permission to fish private waters. It's also not an excuse to ignore daily limits, size limits or other regulations.

It does mean that anyone fishing in Kentucky doesn't need a license or permit. It doesn't matter whether you hail from Louisville or Louisiana – everybody fishes for free.

Communities all across Kentucky participate in the fun with special events for anglers, especially the youngsters in the crowd. Click on the Free Fishing Weekend webpage or go online to fw.ky.gov to search for a list of events.

Plenty of resources are available on the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources' website at fw.ky.gov to help get you started:

- Get the basics - Search "Learn to Fish" for instructional videos covering knot tying and how to fillet fish.
  - Get equipped - Look up "loaner poles" for locations of free loaner fishing pole locations.
  - Learn the rules - See the annual "Kentucky Fishing & Boating Guide."
  - Where to go - Visit the Fishing in Neighborhoods ("FINs") page for lists of easily accessible, specially stocked lakes.
  - Get inside information - Peruse the "fishing forecast" for intel on fish around the state.
  - Find the fish - Search "fish attractors" for habitat maps at various lakes – you can even download GPX files from there.
- For those on the go, there's an app anglers can use to find directions to local lakes, read fishing reports, learn about regulations, find stocking schedules, locate the nearest boat ramp and more. To download the app to your phone, search for "Fish Boat KY" in your preferred app store.
- The water is calling. Pack up your family on the first weekend of June and enjoy fishing in Kentucky – for free.

# 24 students selected to attend 2025 Entrepreneurial Leadership Institute

A total of 24 high school students from Southern and Eastern Kentucky have been selected by The Center for Rural Development to develop their business and entrepreneurial skills at the 2025 Entrepreneurial Leadership Institute (ELI), including Whitley County's Marissa Meadors, Knox County's Lauren Messer and McCreary County's Mika Reed.

ELI, an intensive one-week summer leadership program, provides hands-on learning and real-life experiences for student entrepreneurs to turn their creative, innovative ideas into a start-up business.

"We want to give students the tools and resources they need to learn business and marketing strategies, teamwork, and essential problem-solving and leader-

ship skills," said Lonnie Lawson, President and CEO of The Center for Rural Development. "These students are our region's next generation of future business leaders and entrepreneurs, and we can't wait to see the creative ideas they will bring to the table at our 2025 ELI Class."

ELI will be held July 28 - Aug. 1 at The Center

for Rural Development in Somerset. The week will culminate with a Business Concept Challenge Competition, where teams will pitch their innovative business ideas to a panel of judges. The winning team will earn a scholarship offer to Eastern Kentucky University.

The program is presented by The Center

for Rural Development in partnership with the Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation and Amanda Kelly with Southeast Kentucky Economic Development (SKED).

For more information about ELI, please call (606) 677-6000, visit [www.centertech.com](http://www.centertech.com), or email [youth@center-tech.com](mailto:youth@center-tech.com).

## King Crossword

**ACROSS**

1 Science room

4 Novelist Waugh

8 Baby carriage

12 Mode lead-in

13 "Break My Heart" singer Dua

14 Deserve

15 Most spiteful

17 Erte's style

18 Naval rank

19 Director DuVernay

21 Hosp. workers

22 Frasier's ex-wife

26 Hay bundles

29 Transcript no.

30 Dr. of hip-hop

31 Spanish cheers

32 Espionage org.

33 Close

34 "Diamonds" singer

35 Kilmer of "Top Gun"

36 Paper packs

37 Severe

39 "Great Expectations" lad

40 Hosp. areas

41 Dodges

45 Fresh

48 California island

50 March Madness gp.

51 Skater's leap

52 Dijon denial

53 Undecided

54 Legendary loch

55 Donkey

**DOWN**

1 Lingerie trim

2 Cumming or Bates

3 Cave creatures

4 Sets straight

5 Property claims

6 Mini-albums, for short

7 Tree with pods

8 Bicycle part

9 "Norma —"

10 Lob's path

11 L-P link

16 Corvette quartet

20 By means of

23 Notion

24 Streetcar

25 Towel word

26 Employer

27 Landed

28 Jet type

29 Baseball's Hodges

32 MRI's kin

33 Neighbor of Tibet

35 TiVo precursor

36 Foes

38 Hawkeye

39 "For — sake!"

42 Actress Merrill

43 Eve's grandson

44 Without

45 Busy insect

46 Sgt., for one

47 Corn spike

49 Chopper

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