



Pack 93 Catfish Roundup, 2009

What: It's time again for Pack 93's annual catfishing trip!!! We catch catfish in the afternoon and cook 'em and eat 'em that very evening at our Fall campout!

Where: We meet and fish at the Grant Street Fish Farm in Bessemer. Here's how you get there:

1. From Hoover take I-459 South to Exit 1, take ramp right toward Bessemer/McCalla.
2. Turn **right** onto CR-18 / Eastern Valley Rd, proceed 2.0 miles
3. Turn **left** onto Grant Street, proceed one-half mile, the Fish farm is on your left. Their phone number is 481-9999.

When: Saturday, October 4 from 1:00 PM until 3:00 PM

What to Wear: Cubs should wear their Class B uniform (pack t-shirts). Adults and siblings should dress for the weather in something that's okay to get dirty.

General Information: The catfish farm is a commercial operation that, for a fee, allows the public to fish in their ponds. They charge for the fish caught by the gross pound at various rates depending upon whether and how they clean the fish for you. You give them your catch and they return your cleaned catch in plastic bags with ice. Typically, the cost is a little higher than buying filets in your grocery store.

Pack 93 pays for the fishing and fish caught by each scout up to **two** fish each. Depending on how the fish are biting, we will reserve to change the limit. We want to catch enough fish to feed the group, but we don't want to pay for extra fish that we don't need. If and when a cub reaches his limit, adults may purchase as many fish as they wish for the child to catch – you will just want to use one of the 5 gallon buckets provided to keep those fish separate and to pay for them yourselves. When your cub scout has had enough fishing you may leave whenever you want and head out to Tannehill and set up your tent and visit.

At 3:00 PM, we will close up at the lake, have the Pack's fish cleaned and iced and deliver them to the campsite at Tannehill. The cubs will proceed to Tannehill to set up camp and get ready to enjoy some fish and hot dogs.

What to Bring:

1. Folding chairs
2. Hats (there's no shade out there)
3. Drinks and snacks for your folks (there's a small store that has drinks and bathrooms)
4. **Special Caution** – As with any fishing spot, there will be ants – there's just too much good stuff for them to eat. Bring some Sting-Eze or something similar in case of bites but the best thing is to *be careful where you stand*. Keep special watch on the young ones.

Fishing Needs:

1. Children under the age of 16 do not need an Alabama state fishing license.
2. Rod and Reel – this needs to be a *real* rod and reel – not a toy. I suggest a 6'00" medium to medium-heavy rod (Ugly Stik® by Shakespeare is a good one) with a spincast reel (Zebco 33 type) holding at least 10 and preferably 12 pound test *fresh* line (the farm asks that 16 pound test be used but that is a little too heavy for a Zebco 33). But please don't go under 10 pound test – this will reduce breakoffs – there are some decent size fish here that will break line and disappoint young fishermen. Put a piece of tape with your name on your rod.
3. Catfish hooks, round, medium-sized bobbers and round, lead split shot (BB size will do).
4. Bait – The pack will provide some boxes of worms. If you don't like to fool with worms you may bring your own smelly favorite or purchase other options at the store. Assistance will be provided those unfamiliar with the finer points of impaling worms (don't be afraid to ask for help).
5. Optional gear – needle-nose pliers for extracting hooks, old fingernail clippers for cutting line and a glove for handling fish.

Final Notes:

The most important thing to mention is our concern for safety. Parents, please stay with your children to make sure they don't:

1. Fall in the pond
2. Stand in an ant bed
3. Hit other folks with their rods or hook something or someone other than a catfish.

Basic fishing etiquette dictates that you allow plenty of casting room between you and fishermen to either side and are always considerate of other fishermen.

When you arrive on Saturday, check in at the registration table at the pond. When fish are caught, bring them back to the registration/weigh-in area where the fish will be logged, weighed and put in a holding tank. We will have assistants available to help those unfamiliar with fishing. *Our goal is to have every child catch a fish and have a wonderful time!*

I will be happy to provide any help including rigging up your rod and reel but I would like to do that *before* that Saturday if possible. If you have questions or need any kind of help, please call me, Owen Stallworth, at (205) 979-0013 or email me at ostallworth0013@charter.net.