

Annual youth fish camp

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WINCHESTER

It's all about choosing the right gear, learning the rules, knowing where to drop a line, savouring the catch... and swapping fish stories.

South Nation Conservation is once again holding a three-part Saturday youth fish camp leading up to Ontario's designated Family Fishing Weekend July 10-11. Open to prospective fishers aged 10-15, the camp will accommodate 12 participants.

To be held at Cass Bridge Conservation Area off Highway 31 south of Winchester, the camp runs 10 am-2 pm on all three days. Opening June 26, the camp continues July 3 and July 10.

Each participant will receive a rod, reel and small tackle box containing a sampler of lures. The first day will revolve around assembling and using the equipment and casting out into the South Nation River which flows past the conservation area. Catch and release methods, and careful handling of live fish, will be demonstrated. Members of

the Ottawa Fly-fishers Society will be on hand to engage in their fine art.

On the second Saturday, participants will learn about regulations, licenses, permits, seasons for each species, and fish sanctuaries from Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources officer Art Gamble. The highlight of the day will be a shore fish fry hosted by SNC's Chris Craig, an Algonquin who'll use a traditional cooking method involving wrapping the catch in clay.

The final Saturday will be used to teach participants about various species found in the 4000 square-km SNC watershed, including what kind of lures, baits, attractants and casting techniques work the best. As the last day is part of Family Fishing Weekend, family and friends are invited out to see for themselves what participants have learned. Pro angler Jacques Levert will be on hand to answer questions from the young semi-pros.

To register or for more information, contact Ryan Robson, SNC, 1-877-984-2948, ext. 224, rrobson@nation.on.ca. Participation is on a first-come, first-served basis.