



El Dorado, Kan. –

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This year's C.A.S.T. (Catch A Special Thrill) for Kids drew a number of youth and boaters to El Dorado Lake Saturday morning.

The boaters and fishermen were paired up with the special needs youth to head out on the lake for a morning of fishing. Around lunch time, they returned for hamburgers and hot dogs, as well as the awards presentation.

"When we first started this, if it hadn't been for the Kansas Highway Patrol, we probably wouldn't be doing this and wouldn't be doing an event of this size," said Kansas Highway Patrol Trooper Tom Spencer, C.A.S.T. event director.

A representative from the KHP said the event, which began about four years ago, is fun for them.

Several service awards were presented to those who help put on the event, including the KHP.

Another plaque was presented to Brad Burns, the Kansas Bass Pro youth director.

"Once again, I am being presented with an award for doing something that makes you feel great," Burns said.

He told the story of how someone took him out fishing and got him hooked on bass fishing when he was 8 or 9 years old.

He felt this was a great way to get youth hooked on fishing.

Mike Morgan, owner of Shady Creek Marina, also was presented a plaque.

"I love being associated with the C.A.S.T., it's a great event," he said.

Several others also were recognized, with the last being a special award to Riley Brown, the 2009 C.A.S.T. spokesperson.

Spencer said Brown was someone he has spent a lot of time with lately.

"It was 24 degrees when we started filming (for a promotional video) in my garage," Spencer said.

Brown also fishes with the KHP Reel Deal.

“On behalf of C.A.S.T. and KHP, thank you so much,” Spencer said.

“He’s spent a lot of time with me, not only in my boat but running around. He’s a pretty special person.”

Awards also were presented to the boaters and youth before the event ended.

“Thank you for fishing with us and hopefully we’ll see you next year,” Brown told the group.