



KANSAS STATE TROOPERS
1ST FISHING KIDS IN KANSAS
“CATCH A SPECIAL THRILL”

By: Trp. Tom Spencer K-241

July 10, 2008 was the first Fishing Kids event ever held outside the state of Washington and the first of its kind in Kansas. It was held at Grove Park in Wichita for **50** at-risk youth. This event was made possible by the Kansas State Troopers Association, Kansas Highway Patrol, Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks, Wichita Police Department, Family Services Institute, Weed & Seed, Dellrose United Methodist Church and C.A.S.T. For Kids Foundation. All of the children received a Zebco Rod and Reel, small tackle box supplied by Wildlife & Parks and Fishing Kids T-shirt. Before hitting the water, the children learned about bullying, gangs and seatbelt education. They also learned some fishing techniques from Conservation and Enforcement Officer Jason Barker. The opportunity to enjoy a quality outdoor recreational experience through the sport of fishing was theirs. I believe personally that it is important to offer and show that there are some great inexpensive outdoor opportunities for disadvantaged children right here within our community that offer some excellent fishing/family opportunities. For almost all of the children at this event, it was their first time to experience the joys of fishing. Which by the way was obvious, when it was time to leave the lake, no one was ready to go. Fifty children in one place and no one ready to go. I don't know if there are any other activities out there with that kind of captivation.



It was a great success for all involved and gave these at-risk youth a chance to get up close to law enforcement officials. Officers with the Wichita Police Department, Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks and troopers with the Kansas Highway Patrol all got the phenomenal fulfillment of giving something back to their community. I just have this feeling about next year. Now isn't that what it's really all about. Help make a difference.... “Catch a Special Thrill !!”

As Always, Tight Lines!!

Trooper Tom