

First annual Walt Brandon Invitational Kid's Fishing Clinic

Bryan Swink
A.k.a. shortcircuit

The date was October 13, 2012. The location was Florida Atlantic University's Everglades Youth Conservation Camp in the JW Corbett Wildlife Management Area. The weather was comfortable and breezy. The sky was overcast, the kids were a-buzz with excitement, the fish were cooperative and the volunteers were amazing.

We had a wonderful time teaching the kids to fish. If you have never had the joy of seeing a young person catch their very first fish, you are missing out on an experience that everyone should have in life.

We are grateful to the "Place of Hope" for entrusting us with this task and participating in our event. Over thirty kids who are either in shelter or awaiting foster home placement participated.

We sent the kids back with fishing poles

and tackle boxes so they could continue to hone their newly learned skills.

Chairperson TJ Danison did a great job organizing and planning the event and our volunteer coordinator Lynn LaCroix was a huge success in getting the people we needed in place to make this a special event for each of the children.

Celia Swink and Lynn LaCroix did the fund raising. Our hearts go out to TJ and Butch as earlier in the week TJ suddenly lost her father. TJ pushed through and kept everything on pace and we had a very successful event. Way to go Girls!!!

We had fantastic participation from different business' and individuals who donated money, goods or services.

It all started with the donation of the design of the event Logo by Jordan Alessi, then the T shirts and printing were donated by EmbroidMe in WPB.

We had tackle and tackle boxes donated

by Swink Consulting and Management. Back packs for the kids were donated by Hetzel Irrigation. The Florida Sportsmen's Conservation Association made a monetary donation. In addition President Tom McWatters came out to help and we thank him for that.. Several other generous individuals made significant financial donations that made this a very successful event for everyone.

The FWC, with representation from Officer Lee, supplied the fishing poles and instruction so the kids got hands-on training to make this a successful event. Pete LaCroix cooked the hotdogs and many others helped serve.

We also were able to give the kids a buggy ride thanks to Jerry Holmes bringing his buggy out and to Louis Locklear for doing the driving. Louis said all the kids loved it and he personally got a great amount of enjoyment from the time he spent giving back.

Sometimes we miss out on the finer things in life because we are too busy doing what we want for ourselves and neglect to set aside time for things like this. We are truly the ones that get blessed when we seek to bless others.

Thanks to all the un-named volunteers you guys are the best and your efforts helped make this event a huge success.

Best Regards
Bryan





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