

## **PRESS RELEASE**

For immediate release  
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Caption: Kids learn about fishing skills and ethics and win prizes at the free derby.

### **Free ‘Ding’ Darling Kids Fishing Derby Thanksgiving weekend**

Kids who are able to hold their own fishing pole may participate in the free fifth annual “Ding” Darling Kids Fishing Derby to be held at the Sanibel Causeway Islands Park (Island A, closest to Sanibel) on Saturday, Nov. 26, 2016. J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge and the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS) cosponsor the event as part of this year’s Smithsonian Water/Ways exhibit at the refuge, Oct. 28-Dec. 8.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. on the causeway, and ages 15 and younger start fishing at 9 a.m. and finish at 11 a.m. Awards ceremony is at 11:30.

Judges will record catches during the fishing session. Once the results are tallied, they will award winners in two age groups: 10 to 15, and 9 and younger. Based upon total inches of fish caught, the refuge will award first, second, and third place prizes, plus awards for the largest and smallest fish hooked in both age categories.

Participants should bring fishing poles, but the refuge will provide a limited number of loaner poles for those who do not have their own equipment. Bait will be provided.

Throughout the day, volunteers and staff will teach fishing skills and safe, ethical fishing practices.

The event is made possible also by support from The Historic Bait Box, Trophy Case of Fort Myers, Sanibel Island Fishing Club, and Lee County Parks & Recreation. For more information or to volunteer for Kids Fishing Derby, contact Ranger Becky Larkins at [Rebecca.Larkins@fws.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Larkins@fws.gov) or 239-472-1100 ext. 236.

## ABOUT WATER/WAYS

Through a highly competitive bidding process, ‘Ding’ Darling was chosen as one of only six Florida locations to host the new Water/Ways. The exhibit, part of the Smithsonian’s Museum on Main Street (MoMS) program, examines water as an environmental necessity and important cultural element. Water covers more than 71 percent of Earth’s surface, having an impact on climate, health, economics, politics, agriculture, transportation, and industry. Water/Ways explores the endless motion of water on Earth’s surface, below ground, and in the atmosphere, and it illustrates its effect on landscape, settlement, migration, and even spirituality. For information about the exhibit, visit [www.sites.si.edu](http://www.sites.si.edu).

## ABOUT DDWS

As a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, DDWS works to support J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge’s mission of conservation, wildlife and habitat protection, research, and public education through charitable donations and Refuge Nature Shop proceeds.

To support DDWS and the refuge with a tax-deductible gift, visit [www.dingdarlingsociety.org](http://www.dingdarlingsociety.org) or contact Birgie Miller at 239-292-0566, 239-472-1100 ext. 4, or [director@dingdarlingsociety.org](mailto:director@dingdarlingsociety.org).

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