

## MDC offers free fishing classes

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) provides free classes to help people connect with nature by enjoying fishing. People interested in learning how to fish have an entry point in MDC's Discover Nature—Fishing program. Gear and basic fishing tips are provided, and participants will actually go fishing after lessons.

MDC offers Discover Nature—Fishing programs through the summer in both the Kansas City and St. Joseph areas, and statewide. The basic skills programs are taught in four class sessions where people learn about fish and how to catch them, how to use basic gear, regulations, where to go fishing, and how to prepare fish for cooking. Participants also go fishing at a lake or pond near the class site.

Some programs offer specialized instruction. For example, MDC will offer a free session on Catfishing with Rod and Reel from 6 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, June 29, at an educational pond at the Burr Oak Woods Nature Center in Blue Springs.

In northwest Missouri, basic Discover Nature—Fishing lessons are upcoming in July on various dates at Krug Park Lagoon in St. Joseph and at the Hartell Conservation Area east of Plattsburg.

For a listing of upcoming Discover Nature—Fishing classes in your area, and to register for one, visit <https://short.mdc.mo.gov/Z4y>. The link will also provide other information about Missouri's varied fishing opportunities, including places such as libraries where anglers can check out loaner gear. For information about Missouri's great outdoors, visit <http://mdc.mo.gov>.