

HOW TO START A JUNIOR BASSMASTER CHAPTER



Junior Bassmaster Chapters foster leadership, problem solving and public speaking skills, promote environmental awareness and responsibility, as well as teach kids the fun of fishing. If your club is ready to contribute to the future of our sport, follow these easy steps to start your own junior club.

WHAT YOU NEED:

1. A desire and commitment to encourage youth fishing
2. A minimum of six interested kids ages 18 and under

Once your club makes the decision to form a Junior Bassmaster Chapter, you should begin recruiting members. There are several ways to enlist kids for your junior chapter. You can recruit kids at your Bassmaster CastingKids event by passing out brochures about the program and having interested kids sign a sign-up sheet or have them return the postcard from the brochure to you. Contact schools and youth organizations in your area such as the Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts of America and 4-H Clubs. Send them brochures about the program or ask to make a presentation to the kids. Once you have at least six kids to form the Junior Bassmaster Chapter, return the postcard addressed to BASS Federation to receive the Junior Chapter Packet. This packet will have all the paperwork necessary to affiliate your Junior Bassmaster Chapter.

Once established, the Junior Bassmaster Chapter needs to begin holding regular meetings and activities. Two members of the sponsoring adult chapter should be designated as Senior Advisors for the junior chapter. Duties will include supervising the meetings and functions of the club, helping the kids hold elections for their officers, planning club meetings and programs and, of course, teaching the children about the great sport of fishing.

When planning the programs for the junior chapter, keep in mind that the programs should be fun, interesting and interactive. Programs that are dull, unorganized or too long will lose the children's attention. Ask for the kids' input when deciding on the agenda and activities; remember, it is their club. Listed below are some suggestions to help with the planning.

SUGGESTIONS FOR JR. BASSMASTER CHAPTER MEETINGS

• "How-To" Clinics

- How to fish various lures (arrange a meeting place where a swimming pool is available for demonstrations).
- How to make lures.
- How to wrap rods.
- How to repair rods and reels.
- How to put line on various types of reels.
- Discuss various rod/reel combinations and their advantages and use.
- How to properly maintain your fishing equipment.

• Guest Speakers

- Officers from sponsoring adult club
- National B.A.S.S. officials

- Area or local professional fishermen
- State Federation officer or director
- Outdoor editor of area newspaper
- Representative from conservation or sportsmen's organizations
- Representative from State Department of Natural Resources

• Safety Programs

- Demonstrate the proper way to wear a life jacket.
- Provide instruction on when a life jacket must be worn.
- Demonstrate the proper way to board a boat.
- First-Aid Kit — Contents and Use
- Every activity in which young people participate should be introduced by a short discussion on safety.

• Make an Activity Book

- Collect memorabilia of club's activities.
- Submit a notebook for the Outstanding Achievement Awards. (See the December issue of BASS Times.)
- Involve all members. Have each member responsible for a section.
- Take the book to all club activities to display their achievements.

SUGGESTIONS FOR JR. BASSMASTER CHAPTER PROJECTS

• Bassmaster CastingKids®

- Have Junior Club host a Bassmaster CastingKids event.
- Allow them to conduct the event with minimal supervision.
- Junior club members can recruit new members at event.

• Conservation Projects

- Educate kids about ongoing conservation programs in your area.
- Organize a lake cleanup.
- Adopt-a-Waterway or -Highway Program.
- Stock a local pond or lake with fish.
- Plant fish habitat with Christmas trees (where laws permit).
- Collect recyclable products and take to a recycling plant.

• Hold Youth Tournaments

- Adult club members take kids out in boats.
- Fish from the bank.
- Prizes can be donated fishing equipment (rods & reels, tackleboxes, lures).

• Community Service Projects

- Hold tournaments for physically challenged children.
- Donate canned food to elderly and needy during holidays.
- Donate clothes to needy charities.
- Let junior club members help with big adult club projects (i.e. building a pier, raising money for charity, restocking lakes, help at adult tournaments, fish care).

• Fund-Raising Events

- Hold a tournament with the help of the sponsoring adult club.
- Make lures to sell.
- Candy sales and raffles also work great.
- Proceeds to go for bass habitat improvement, a favorite charity, etc.



SUGGESTIONS FOR A JUNIOR Bassmaster® CHAPTER



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