

Sportsmen for Youth Day



Jim Winter & Miles Bradshaw

Muskegon Motorcycle Gang & Muskegon Recreation Club knocked it out of the park at the Sportsman for Youth on September 6th. What a great event, great weather, and seeing all the happy faces was special. Ray Goldsborough you did all the leg work for this, thank you: 2000 fishing poles, tackle boxes and sunglasses were donated. (2,029 kids and 1,815 adults came through our gates.)

Muskegon Rec. Club & Muskegon Motorcycle Gang Fishing Pole/Tackle Box Giveaway: 13 years ago, 12 of our riders left Muskegon on the Lake Express Ferry for a weekend ride. One hour into the ride a driver crossed the center line and hit 10 of the 12 riders killing Dan Winsemius and Doug Yonkers, and injuring 8 others. Dan was a true outdoorsman and in his honor we held golf outings, and in the next four years we gave away 660 fishing poles, 85 kayaks, and 100 bicycles at this event. This past



Hunter Peer

Sportsmen for Youth – Youth Day 2025

by John Cramblet

On September 6, 2025 at 9am the gates were opened to Muskegon County Fairgrounds on Heights Ravenna Road and 2029 kids and 1815 adults started funneling through. Each youth under the age of 17 was given a SFY t-shirt (while supplies lasted) a ticket to place in a prize bucket and a ticket for a free hotdog and bag of chips. There were approximately 70 exhibitors at the event including a trout pond, fire and EMT displays, along with fishing and hunting booths. There were also booths for 4H, Sea Cadets, wood carvers, environmental groups, boating safety groups, a Boy Scout village and a primitive encampment. A 35 foot aquarium on wheels was also on site and members of Mark Martins Fishing Team gave fishing seminars throughout the day. The Muskegon Motorcycle Gang gave away fishing poles and tackle boxes in memory of past fallen members. At noon all activities stopped as we paid tribute to the lives lost on September 11, 2001 with the singing a patriotic song and color guard and bagpipe procession.

At 3pm the event ended and the tearing down of the event began. With the help of the Boy Scouts, Sea Cadets and many other volunteers along with the SFY Board Members the majority of the work was completed in several hours.

The SFY Board would like to thank all the people that attended Youth Day this year, the volunteers and the exhibitors. We hope

fall we lost another one of our riders in a horrific car accident. His name was Hunter “Fish” Peer. Hunter was a true outdoorsman. He loved to fish, and he got his gang name “Fish” which was so fitting for a guy riding around with a fishing pole in his saddlebag. In his honor we wanted to give as many kids the chance to enjoy the great



fishing we have in Michigan, so we did a golf outing and other events, and purchased 2000 fishing poles and tackle boxes to give away.

From everyone on the SFY Board we would like to thank each and every Volunteer, and Sponsors that helped put on another wonderful Youth Day. Without these people and businesses, we would not be able to put on the best FREE event in Muskegon County!

Next Youth Day: September 12th, 2026.
Thank you 2025 Youth Day Sponsors: Acme Tree Company, Ade’s Collision Service, Arts & Drafts Festival, Asphalt Paving, Inc., Aunt Millie’s, Bill Krepps, Cedar Spring Sales & Graphix, Cerberus Security, Cheryl’s Trailer Sales, Choice One Bank, City of Norton Shores, Consumers Energy, Custom Service Printers, Deitz House Moving Engineers, Dr. Suzanne M. Stanford DDS, Drummond Marine, Feradyne Outdoors, Frank’s Plumbing, Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 99, Fruitport Conservation Club, Fruitport Fire Department, Go-Go Squeeze, Grand Haven Custom Molding, Great Lakes Firearms, Hungerford CPA, Kiwanis, Lorin Industries, Michigan Anglers Association, Michigan CAT, Mike Gebben, Muskegon County Mounted Division, Muskegon Motorcycle Gang, Muskegon Sportfishing Association, Newmyer Plumbing, Orchard Markets, Pete Scott, Preferred Automotive, Pro-Vision Media, Ravenna Conservation Club, Republic Services, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Safari Club International Michigan, Schuitema Nexus Realty, Scott Meats, Shoreline Insurance, Sport Clips, State Farm/Gary Nelund, Sytsema Funeral Homes, Van Hydraulics, Vortex, Wesco, West Michigan Wildlife Association, Whitlow’s Forerunner Restaurant.

you enjoyed the event and will mark your calendars for next year’s event on September 12, 2026. Remember Sportsmen for Youth – Day is always the first Saturday after Labor Day.

Big Read Comes to Muskegon County

Muskegon, MI — Muskegon Area District Library (MADL) is partnering with organizations across Muskegon County and beyond to bring the NEA Big Read Lakeshore to life. This collaborative reading program is entering its 12th year promoting community participation, discussion, and enrichment through reading, attending community events, and discussing the chosen titles.

From September-November, dozens of other programs will be taking place across Allegan, Muskegon, and Ottawa Counties. All of the Big Read events happening in Muskegon County – from crafts to book clubs and Storytimes to escape rooms - can be found at MADL.org/BR.

All NEA Big Read events happening in West Michigan can be found at <https://bigreadlakeshore.com/events/month/>.

Support for Big Read Lakeshore Provided by NEA. The program – organized by Hope College – has continued to be supported in part with a \$20,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and also supported by Arts Midwest.

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