

Bill Richardson
Governor

Joanna Prukop
Cabinet Secretary

David J. Simon
Division Director
**New Mexico State
Parks**



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Contact: Marti Niman, Public Information Officer,
505-827-1474

NEWS RELEASE

Oasis State Park to Host Annual Kid's Fishing Clinic Nov. 7

PORTALES, N.M. – Kids ages 6 -17 years of age can catch trout in the desert, win fabulous door prizes and help feed the hungry at Oasis State Park's Annual Kid's Fishing Clinic, scheduled from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Nov. 7. Every registered fisherman will receive a door prize and learn fishing techniques from fly tying to water safety. The event is sponsored by Oasis State Park in conjunction with the Friends of Oasis, Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Portales, the Eastern New Mexico Wildlife Club, NM Department of Game and Fish, and local volunteers.

"This gives the kids an opportunity to have a great outdoor experience while learning the fundamentals of fishing," said Park Manager Jim Whary.

Kids can visit up to 10 instruction stations to learn knot-tying, fish biology and conservation, fish cleaning, tackle identification, water safety, casting, fly fishing and fly tying. Lunch will be provided by the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Portales. All fishermen 12 years and older must possess a valid New Mexico fishing license and all trout limits apply. Fishing licenses and regulations are available online at www.wildlife.state.nm.us or at numerous license vendors statewide.

Thanks to VFW Post 3280, every registered child will be eligible for a door prize, ranging from fishing rods to tackle boxes, backpacks, sleeping bags, camp chairs and other outdoor gear. Participants must pre-register with Oasis by calling 575-356-5331 and early registration is recommended, as there are limited slots available. The entry fee is one or two cans of food per child; the food will be donated to the Eastern New Mexico Food Bank. All participants should dress warmly and bring fishing gear and tackle if available; some gear will be available to borrow at the event.

A true oasis on the grassy plains of east-central New Mexico, Oasis State Park is set among cottonwood trees and shifting sand dunes with a small fishing lake stocked with rainbow trout and channel catfish in the summer. Many bird species make their home at the park, including great blue heron, quail and western sandpiper. Oasis State Park is located 6.5 miles north of Portales via N.M. 467. For more information about NM State Parks, call 888-NMPARKS or visit www.nmparks.com.

The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.

New Mexico State Parks
1220 South St. Francis Drive ▪ Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
Phone (505) 476-3355 ▪ Fax (505) 476-3361 ▪ www.nmparks.com

