

The value of fundraising fishing tournaments to nonprofit organizations

The Minnesota Fishing challenge is a fundraising fishing tournament in which anglers not only compete for prizes but also raise awareness and funds for Minnesota Adult & Teen Challenge, six faith-based drug and alcohol rehabilitation campuses across the state. There are also campuses most other states including North and South Dakota.

This event has raised more than \$4 million to help people struggling with drug and alcohol addiction, including a record \$520,000 in 2022. Men and women enrolled in the program have their lives transformed with more than an 80% long-term success rate of recovery. It is expensive for a person to be in a program for 13 months, but it has been shown to create productive members of society, functioning adults who are better parents, better spouses and examples to the people around them. Broken families are restored, broken lives are restored and it is no overstatement to say that lives are being saved.

Yes, a fishing tournament can do all that. The Teen Challenge campus in Bismarck could take advantage of this amazing opportunity to raise funds if the ability to hold an event like this one was available to them. Tournaments using both an in-person weigh-in format, as well as an app-based event where anglers fish the water of their choice should be available to North Dakota Anglers.

Don't waste this opportunity to transform the lives of broken people with tournament rules and regulations that create a difficult environment for events of this nature. These events not only generate funds to help hurting people, but create employment opportunities, bring positive exposure to fisheries and generate excitement for fishing among anglers of all ages.

Thank you,

Bernie Barringer

Tournament director