



*Still fishing for hospitalized kids!*

# Earl O'Brien Memorial FISHING DERBY



**Kiwaniis of  
Michigan  
Foundation**

**Main Event: Thursday May 21, 2026**

*Additional events available by sponsor preference and/or Patient VIP need.*

**Earl O'Brien** spent his life creating opportunities for kids to enjoy sports and life, even if disadvantaged, disabled, or suffering from catastrophic disease. In 2005 Earl launched an offshore fishing tournament benefiting hospitalized children. **In honor of Earl, we keep fishing for kids — all proceeds support Child Life programs in four Michigan children's hospitals.**



Sponsors are assigned to professional charter boats for a morning of exciting salmon fishing on Lake Michigan. Each boat holds up to six participants, and sponsors can invite family, friends, employees, or customers to fish on their boat. **Or, sponsors can choose to donate their boat to young "Patient VIPs" from our beneficiary hospitals.** Grand prizes are awarded for the largest fish in Sponsor and Patient VIP categories. Additional prizes are awarded by drawing, and a fun prize is awarded to the smallest fish of the day.



**Boats Depart at 6:00 a.m. from Chinook Pier, Grand Haven**  
and Return by Noon for Fish Weigh-In, Lunch, Program and Prizes

**Chinook Sponsor — \$5,000**  
Three boats holding up to 18 participants.

**Atlantic Sponsor — \$3,500**  
Two boats holding up to 12 participants.

**Coho Sponsor — \$2,000**  
One boat holding up to 6 participants.

**Pink Salmon Sponsor — \$1,000**  
Up to 3 participants; no boat choice.

**Patient VIP Boat Sponsor — \$2,000**  
For 3 patients and their adult chaperones.

**Patient VIP Benefactor — \$600**  
Sponsor 1 patient and adult chaperone.

**Recruit a new sponsor and both will receive \$200 off!**

Sponsors may donate one or more boats to patient VIPs. Additional donations or gifts are gladly accepted.

Sponsorships must be received no later than two weeks in advance of event date. Boats are chartered and assigned based on paid sponsor request whenever possible. All boat participants must register in advance.

**See website for complete rules and prize eligibility.**

*For further info, sponsorship form, donation options, photos of past events and more...*

**EOB-FISH.ORG**



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## Frequently Asked Questions

**How old is this event?** 22 years! Earl held his first "Sportfishing Tourney" on June 2, 2005. We've been fishing non-stop ever since, sometimes twice a year, even through covid.

**How much has it raised?** We are proud to report that we have *donated* \$756,536.54 to children's hospitals since 2005.

**Where does that money go?** Originally, the event was a fundraiser for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. However, it didn't take long to bring our focus closer to home! Every penny raised goes to Child Life Programs at Michigan children's hospitals.

### **Which hospitals are supported?**

1. CS Mott Children's Hospital, Ann Arbor
2. Children's Hospital of Michigan, Detroit
3. Mary Free Bed Hospital & Rehabilitation Center, Grand Rapids (specifically MFB Kids and Youth Adaptive Sports)
4. Helen DeVos Children's Hospital, Grand Rapids

### **What is "Child Life" and why is it important?**

Child Life programs directly impact the well being of children undergoing treatment. Certified Child Life Specialists hold degrees in child development, psychology, education or therapeutic recreation. Their work focuses on reducing fear, anxiety and pain for hospitalized children and accelerating healing through play, distraction, therapy and education.

Child Life programs are funded entirely through grants and donations, like yours.

### **What is the Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation?**

As the story goes, a grandfather was visiting his ailing granddaughter in the children's ward of the University of Michigan Hospital (now C.S. Mott Children's Hospital). Although she was receiving excellent medical care, he saw that her educational and childhood needs were not being met. He wanted more for his granddaughter.

Thanks to his efforts, in 1922 the Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor established a school and recreation program for the children's units in the hospital. That program evolved to become the Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation, combining the fundraising efforts of all Michigan Kiwanians.

**Who fishes in the derby?** Both paid sponsors and "Patient VIPs" can fish in our event. Sponsors can choose to fill their boat with up to six of their own participants—employees, associates, friends or family—or donate their boat to Patient VIPs of the children's hospitals.

The grand prize is awarded to the angler of the largest fish by weight in each category, Sponsors and VIPs. Additional prizes are awarded by drawing. A dockside hot dog lunch is served.

**What boats participate?** We charter boats from Chinook Pier in Grand Haven unless a paid sponsor requests a specific charter boat.

**Expansion is always an option!** We would happily send anglers from any Michigan port, on any professional charter boat, for any type of fishing.

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