

★ TRWD ★ FLYFEST

ORVIS BIG TROUT CONTEST

CONTEST OVERVIEW:

Whether you're an expert angler or brand new to the sport, you can put some of the tips and tricks you learned at TRWD Flyfest to use at the official festival contest. The friendly contest will take place on the Trinity River and prizes will be awarded for most fish caught (any species), longest trout caught and hooking an official "Golden Palomino Trout".

Please note, bait fishing will not be allowed within the contest; only hand-tied flies will be permitted. Bait fishing will only be allowed within the open fishing area.

REGISTRATION

- There will be a \$30 sign-up fee per team
- There will be a total of 40 team spots available, 20 of those spots will be available for pre-registration online
- Contestants are encouraged to register upon arrival at the event as the contest is expected to fill quickly. Registration on-site for each heat will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- Teams will be comprised of two anglers. Contestants must be present at time of registration.
- Each contestant will need to register with their name, address, phone number, and e-mail.
- Each contestant will be required to show their fishing license and valid Government ID at the time of registration.
- Registrants will be given a numbered colored registration card that will be worn around the neck during their heat.
- If the contest is full, teams will be added to a waitlist and can be added to heats if a team drops out.
- Registration for each heat will end 30 minutes before the heat begins. If you registered online, you still need to arrive 30 minutes before the heat to check in.

HEATS

Each heat will be comprised of ten teams. Prizes will be awarded within each heat, in addition to grand prizes for all heats. More information on prizes can be found below.

Heat 1:	RED	11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Heat 2:	BLUE	12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Heat 3:	GREEN	2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Heat 4:	YELLOW	3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

OFFICIAL FISHING MONITORS

Official Fishing Monitors will be in charge of verifying the cumulative number of fish caught for each team and assisting with measurement of a trout that is large enough to qualify for the Big Trout (i.e., longest) category. Trout must be over 10" long to be considered for the Big Trout prize. All trout that merit measurement will be logged by an Official Fishing Monitor on the team's log sheet. Official

Fishing Monitors will also record the first angler that catches a “golden trout” each heat. All Fishing Monitors will turn in every log sheet to the judges immediately upon completion of each heat.

PRIZES

HEAT PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded to teams within each heat immediately after each heat, and respective fish-off (if necessary). Anglers must be present to claim their prize.

Heat Winners: Team Most Fish Caught (any species) – the team with the most cumulative points within their heat will be declared the winner. Any fish “caught” will be counted as one point each, including “Golden Trout.” Should a tie occur, a winner will be determined in a fish-off immediately following that heat with both members of each team fishing concurrently. The first team to catch a fish wins. Any fish caught during a fish-off do not add to the team’s cumulative heat score. The fish-off is only considered for tie-breaking purposes only and bragging rights.

Heat Winners: Individual Big Trout (i.e., longest) – the individual team member who catches the longest singular trout (length in inches rounded down to the nearest quarter inch) within the heat will be declared the winner. Should a tie occur, a winner will be determined in a fish-off (first person to catch a trout wins). Only Rainbow Trout will be considered, no other fish species caught during the contest will count.

Heat Winners: Individual Golden Trout – “Golden trout” will be stocked in the river as an added bonus in the contest. The first individual to catch a “golden trout” within their heat will be awarded a prize.

All heat winners need to report to the stage to receive their award and get a picture when their heat is over

GRAND PRIZES

Grand Prizes will be awarded to the top teams and individuals out of all heats. Grand prize winners will be announced at the end of the last heat. Grand Prize winners must be present to claim their prize.

Grand Prize: Team Most Fish Caught – the team with the most cumulative points for most fish caught during any 1-hour heat (excludes any caught to determine tie-breaker) at the TRWD Flyfest competition will be awarded a grand prize. Should a tie occur, a winner will be determined in a fish-off immediately following the last heat. Heat winners should monitor the heat results to anticipate need to participate in a grand prize fish-off. If a team is not present, geared and ready to begin 15 minutes after the final heat that team forfeits opportunity to participate in the grand prize fish-off for Most Fish Caught. The fish-off must consist of the same team members that won in the qualifying heats. Rules for Grand Prize Team Most Fish Caught fish-off will be announced when teams meet with judges before the Grand Prize Fish-Off begins. Rules may differ from heat fish-offs due to weather or fishing conditions. \$400 Visa Gift Card as well as other prizes

Grand Prize: Individual Big Trout (i.e., longest) – the individual team member who catches the largest singular trout (length in inches rounded down to the nearest quarter inch) of the day will be declared the Grand Prize Individual Big Trout winner. Should a tie occur, a winner will be determined in a fish-off immediately following the last heat. Individual Big Trout winners from each heat should monitor the heat results to anticipate need to participate in a grand prize fish-off. If an Individual Big Trout heat winner is not present, geared and ready to begin 15 minutes after the final heat that individual forfeits opportunity to participate in the grand prize fish-off for Individual Big Trout. The fish-off must consist of the individuals that won in the qualifying heats. Rules for Grand Prize Individual Big Trout fish-off will be announced when individuals meet with judges before the Grand Prize Fish-Off begins. Rules may differ from heat fish-offs due to weather or fishing conditions. \$200 Visa Gift Card as well as other prizes

Winners need to report to the stage for awards ceremony, prizes and pictures immediately following the contest

RULES

Failure to abide by the rules will result in disqualification from the contest.

1. All contestants will be required to show a valid fishing license and valid Government ID at Contest Check-In/Registration. At Contest Check-In/Registration each contestant will be given

a colored numbered lanyard badge that must later be used to check in with judges at Heat Check-In and worn while competing.

2. Contestants will be required to supply all of their own equipment.
3. All contestants must use a rubber landing net (nets will be provided if you do not have your own).
4. Only hand-tied flies will be allowed for fishing in the contest. No artificial lures, power baits, rubber worms or other non-fly fishing baits will be allowed. Flies will be checked by the Official Judges and Fishing Monitors. Only a single dropper attached to the main fly is allowed.
5. Both team members must check in with judges across the river at Heat Check-In at least 15 minutes before their designated heat. At Heat Check-In contestants will be required to provide their colored numbered lanyard badge that was issued at the Contest Check-In/ Registration table. If BOTH members of a team fail to check in with judges 15 minutes before their heat is to begin their slot will be made available to teams that signed up for Stand-By opportunity. Once that slot is given to another team it **WILL NOT** be returned and **NO REFUNDS** will be issued.
6. Only the fish caught in the designated contest fishing area will qualify. Map of the official contest boundaries will be provided at the time of registration and at Heat Check-in. (NOTICE: Judges do reserve the right to change boundaries based on conditions day of competition. If changes do occur, maps and boundary descriptions will be provided by judges during Heat Check-In.)
7. Fishing from the shore is not allowed. Contestants' feet must be in the river.
8. Only one person from each team can fish at a time for a full 10-minute period. Teams will be required to switch who is casting after each ten-minute period.
9. Team members are allowed to assist one another at any point during the heat. It is permissible for team members to share/swap gear and/or touch/assist/modify the casting member's gear even while in use.
(BUT SEE Rule 10.)
10. The non-casting team member is allowed to help net the fish. HOWEVER, the non-casting member is NOT ALLOWED to take over the rod with a fish to help land.
11. Only caught fish will be counted.
12. "Caught" means netted and acknowledged or measured by an Official Fishing Monitor. It is the team's responsibility to secure the acknowledgement and measurement confirmation from an Official Fishing Monitor. Monitors have no obligation to enter the water or approach the contestant at any time.
13. Teams do not need to bring the netted trout to a monitor unless there is a desire for the netted trout to be measured. An acknowledgement by an Official Fishing Monitor with communication regarding which team to credit the netted trout is sufficient.
14. If a cast has landed in the water before the judges announce it is time to switch which team member is casting during a heat, the cast may be fished out; however, the other team member cannot cast until the team member's line is in.
15. If a cast has landed in the water before the official stop time of the heat, the cast may be fished out and any fish caught will count towards contest tabulations for that heat.
16. If there is a tie at the end of heat necessitating a fish-off to determine a heat winner for most fish caught or an individual winner for Big Trout, the fish caught in the fish-off does not count in the tabulations for overall grand prizes. The fish caught is considered for tie-breaking purposes only.
17. Fish-offs will take place immediately following the heat the contestants participate in.
18. Catch and release is required within the contest boundaries during festival hours.
19. Individuals are only allowed to fish in one heat.