

This month Austin Fly Fishers is proud to announce our support of a new fund raising project that will make everyone proud they took part. The program involves introducing children to fishing and good sportsmanship. It is a fund raising program that will run continuously though out the year and I hope beyond. The children involved are not just anyone's "kids" –they are the sons and daughters of our service men and women who have either given their lives while serving our country or are away on duty. The program is Soldiers' Kids Involved in Fishing Fun or SKIFF).

As ordinary citizens, we seldom get a chance to give back to our service men and women who sacrifice so much for us. For me, it is especially important that we make a contribution to the lives of children who are now living without a mother or father at home. Any quality role model in their young lives is crucial and we think this program will give them not only a day of fun that they may be missing from not having a parent to take them fishing but also expose them to the founder of the program, an ex-military man who sees first hand the impact of losing or missing a parent can have on a child. Below is brief outline of the program followed by a sign up sheet that you can fill out and return to Austin Fly Fishers with your tax deductible donations. Please join me and others in supporting this great cause while also spreading the word to your friends and neighbors about the program. We cannot do enough for these children.



**What is SKIFF?** SKIFF stands for Soldiers' Kids Involved in Fishing Fun. It is sponsored by the Austin Fly Fishers and intended to provide support to military families. In particular, the program will give the children of soldiers stationed at Ft. Hood who have either given their lives in service to our nation or who are currently deployed in harm's way an opportunity to go fishing.

**Who is involved in SKIFF?** Austin Fly Fishers will raise the funds to sponsor the fishing trips. Bob Maindelle, a fishing guide and children's pastor serving the Ft. Hood area, will coordinate the fishing trips for the selected families. Bob will offer guided fishing trips in his boat on local lakes. His services will be paid for by Austin Fly Fishers. The fishing is provided at no cost to the families.

**How are the children selected?** Bob Maindelle will coordinate with Debbie Busch, director of the Ft. Hood HUGSS (Helping Unite Gold Star Survivors) program. The HUGSS program serves "Gold Star" families. That is, families who have lost a family member in the War on Terror. Debbie's organization currently serves approximately 40 families residing at Ft. Hood which includes approximately 100 children. Mrs. Busch will notify families about the SKIFF program and pass along the names and contact information of families interested in participating in the program. Bob will contact interested families directly to find a good day and for the fishing excursions.

**How frequently are these trips provided?** For calendar year 2009, Austin Fly Fishers hopes to sponsor 2-3 children per month each month at a cost of \$90 per trip (\$1,080 annually).

**What is a SKIFF fishing trip like?** Bob has years of experience taking children on fishing trips. He recognizes the need to keep the fishing activities at an age-appropriate level. He also understands that all children have a fairly limited attention span. Accordingly, Bob's trips are action-packed from start to finish. As the children arrive, accompanied by a parent or guardian, all are welcomed aboard, fitted with life jackets, given some basic safety instruction, followed by instruction on how to use the fishing equipment. The party then shoves off and hunts for fish. Bob fishes for whatever is biting best at that point in the season be it sunfish, crappie, white bass, largemouth or catfish. Bob will take digital photos to record each child's catch. In addition, he will introduce them to the concept of catch-and-release by having the children return their quarry to the water unharmed.

**Count me in, I will support the children of our troops**

I would like to support the program by sponsoring SKIFF kids

Enclosed herewith is my check payable to Austin Fly Fishers in the amount of \$

\$45 sponsors a kid and \$10 pays for his/her t-shirt & hat

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

Austin Fly Fishers

SKIFF Program

P.O. Box 10504

Austin, TX 78766-0504

Questions? [SKIFF@roncruse.com](mailto:SKIFF@roncruse.com)