

The Maj. Steven Roy Andrews Fishing Outreach Program Inc.

The Maj. Steven Roy Andrews Fishing Outreach Program Inc. is a 501(c) 3 non-profit program that was started in 2008 out of a need to help veterans and at risk and needy kids. The purpose of this program is to get veterans and kids hooked on fishing. For veterans it gives them a way to deal with issues from their service, be it mental or physical ones. Kids find a new hobby they can get involved with and make better choices in life as opposed to hanging around on the block and getting into trouble.

Joe Kowalski takes a vet or kid out on the boat for a day of fishing. "It's a lot like a one day fishing lesson. I try and teach them all I know about this great sport." explains Kowalski. Each vet or kid receives a rod and reel and a tackle box full of the latest baits. This is theirs to keep free of charge. Also included are contacts for local fishing clubs in the area they live so they can continue on if they wish or they can call Joe anytime with questions.

This first year of The Maj. Steven Roy Andrews Fishing Outreach Program has been a success beyond what I thought was possible. This year I have been able to take out 20 veterans and expose them to the great sport of fishing. Again this has been on a 1 on 1 basis. I'd like to relate to you what this has meant to our veterans.

One young man I took out was Cpl. Carlos Lopes a young Marine from Rhode Island. He was in Iraq when his HummVee was hit by and IED. Carlos was hit in 2004 and spent the next 3 years and had 22 operations in Bethesda Naval Hospital. He had just recently got home when he found out about the Program. We spent the day together fishing and talking about things only veterans understand. After most of the day going by we managed to hook into a 4.5 largemouth. The expression on Carlos face was priceless. After we finally had to call it a day he told me he couldn't believe that some one would do this for him, I said that's just the way it is in the Marine Corps we take care of our own. We gave each other a big sloppy hug and I told him welcome home little brother and we both shed a tear. I wanted to share that story with you because for every vet I take out it's more that just a fishing trip it's a way of saying thanks and welcome home.

I was also able to help 150 kids at the YMCA's Camp Sloper and Riverfront Recaptures Fishing Day on the CT River. These were fishing camps I was asked to attend to teach the kids how to fish. To see the expression on a kid's face when he or she catches a fish is truly priceless, especially when it's there first fish. A lot of the kids I taught how to fish had only one parent or couldn't afford to buy a rod, reel and tackle. Because of your generous contributions and donations I am able to provide them with equipment for them to experience the joys of fishing.

During the coming year I hope that you will continue your support of my Fishing Outreach Program. Once again this year I plan on trying to take as many vets and kids fishing as possible. I would like to ask for your continued support of my Fishing Outreach Program.

Thank you,

Joe Kowalski
President Maj. Steven Roy Andrews Fishing Outreach Program

**For further information or to find out how you can help, please contact Joe at:
Major Steven Roy Andrews Fishing Outreach Program Inc.**

C/O Joe Kowalski - President
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