



**Stagecoach State Park's 11th
Annual Ice Fishing Tournament
Tournament Rules**

- 1. Registration:** The tournament fee for Adults and/or Youth (16 years of age and up) is \$40.00 CASH ONLY. All entrants may be required to show proof of age and/or identification.
- 2. Youth Registration:** Entry for you 15 years and younger is free. All youth entries under the age of 13 must be accompanied by an adult contestant. Optionally, youth may enter the paid tournament for \$40.00 and be eligible for cash prizes.
- 3. Pre-Registration (NEW LOCATIONS FOR 2023):** Pre-registration is available through **1/11/2024 at the following locations ONLY. Registration fees (\$40.00/entrant) must be made in-person (no phone registration is available) and paid in-full (CASH ONLY) at the time of pre-registration.**

PRE-REGISTRATION LOCATIONS:

- STAGECOACH STATE PARK OFFICE-25500 RCR 14, Oak Creek,CO 80467 / (970) 736-2436
- YAMPA RIVER STATE PARK HEADQUARTERS - 6185 W Hwy 40, Hayden,CO 81639 / (970) 276-2061
- CPW STEAMBOAT SPRINGS OFFICE - 925 Weiss Dr. Steamboat Springs,CO 80487 / (970) 870-2197
- Spiro's Trading Post -107 W Main St, Oak Creek,Co 80467 / (970) 736-2443
- Montgomery's - 24 Main St, Yampa Co / (970) 638-4531

- 4. Check-in: Pre-registered contestants are not required to check-in the morning of the tournament.** Unregistered contestants must check-in on Saturday January 13th, 2024 between 6:30 AM and 9:00 AM at the Stagecoach State Park Marina parking area. ALL VEHICLES ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A VALID COLORADO STATE PARKS PASS. Daily Park Passes (\$10) may be purchased at the Stagecoach State Park Self-Serve Stations and Annual Park Passes (\$80) at the Park Visitor Center or any CPW location prior to the event.
- 5. Fishing Schedule/Location:** The tournament fishing will begin at 8:00 AM and end at 3:00 PM on January 13th, 2024. All contestants 16 years and older must have a valid Colorado fishing license, and all fish must be caught on Stagecoach Reservoir. Fishing license sales will be available at the park office from 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM the day of the tournament. CONTESTANTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO DRILL HOLES UNTIL THE SIRENS SOUND AT 8:00AM. Non-contestants are not allowed to reserve spots for contestants, and no pre-drilled holes may be used in the first hour of the tournament. Rule Violations will result in disqualification.
- 6. Unregistered Anglers:** Unregistered anglers will be allowed to fish on the reservoir during the tournament. However, unregistered anglers in your party may jeopardize the validity of fish caught by contestants. CONTESTANTS (INCLUDING YOUTH) MUST CATCH THEIR OWN FISH.
- 7. Fishing Rules/ Limits:** Only two fish can be measured per contestant. All fishing contestants must be in line at the Stagecoach Marina measuring table line by 3:15 PM. ONLY TROUT MEASURING A MINIMUM OF 16" IN LENGTH and all Northern Pike are eligible to be measured for prizes. All Colorado Division of Parks & Wildlife fishing rules apply including the trout daily bag limit (4). Specific to the tournament, once an angler adds their fourth trout to their daily bag limit they MUST stop fishing for the day. This is being done to reduce the environmental impact of the tournament on the trout population of the reservoir. Please practice "catch and release" whenever possible for trout not used in the tournament. Additionally, Parks and Wildlife Managers are implementing mandatory harvest of Northern Pike, Walleye and Smallmouth Bass during this tournament. Information gathered from collections of these species will be useful in future management practices at Stagecoach. Release of these species during the tournament will result in disqualification.

a. **Optional Pike Category:** For an additional \$20 buy-in, you may participate in the optional Pike Category. This pot will be awarded to the angler(s) that turns in the biggest individual pike by length. The tie-breaker, specific to the pike category, will be determined by the individual in the tie that turns in the most pike. If both or all parties in tie breaker catch the same number, the pot will be split evenly.

8. **Judging:** Fish will be judged on length to the nearest 1/8 inch. Contestants may turn in **TWO (2) TROUT ONLY!** Contestants will be required to bring fish to the Measuring Table located in the marina parking lot for measurement. All fish should be unfrozen for measurement. At time of measuring the fish will have a fin cut to show the fish has been entered into the fishing tournament. The tiebreaker will be determined by the longest single fish associated with the tie situation.

9. **Adult Division Prizes:** After \$1,000 Administrative cost, 75% of remaining registration money is paid out as follows. 25% of registration fees will be donated to The Friends of Stagecoach State Park! The cash prizes awarded are dependent on the number of registered contestants. Participants must be present to win all cash, non-cash and raffle prizes.

a. **For the primary Trout category, cash prizes are awarded for first through tenth place on total combined measurement (length only) of TWO (2) TROUT.**

b. **For the optional Northern Pike category, total cash is awarded to the longest fish.**

TROUT TOURNAMENT:	% of Prize \$	PRIZE **
First Place	35%	\$ 2,800.00
Second Place	19%	\$ 1,520.00
Third Place	14%	\$ 1,120.00
Fourth Place	9%	\$ 720.00
Fifth Place	7%	\$ 560.00
Sixth Place	6%	\$ 480.00
Seventh Place	4%	\$ 320.00
Eight Place	3%	\$ 240.00
Ninth Place	2%	\$ 160.00
Tenth Place	1%	\$ 80.00

• Additional categories will be awarded non-cash prizes!
 • Approximate Trout Tournament Payout w/300 participants = \$6,720.00. Actual prizes may vary based on participation. • The 2019 Tournament hosted 300 paid participants and paid a total of \$6,150.00 for Trout Prizes and \$2,000.00 for the optional Pike category.

10. **Youth Division Prizes:** Youth participants may pay to be included in both/either the paid Trout and Pike categories.

11. **Parking:** Parking will be allowed only in designated areas in Stagecoach State Park. Car-Pooling is highly recommended as parking is very limited in the Marina parking lot. Please do not park on the boat ramp or on park roads.

12. **Motorized Vehicles:** Motorized vehicles (snowmobiles and 4 wheelers) can be used during the tournament solely for the purpose of ice fishing access at the rider's risk. Early season ice conditions will exist on the reservoir, so please use caution. All OHV's and Snowmobiles must have valid registration. Contestants can use motorized vehicles to bring fish up to the Marina measuring table to enter fish as soon as they are caught. This will help avoid congestion at the end of the day.

13. **Fish at Your Own Risk:** By entering this tournament, all contestants agree that no persons, organizations, state or federal agencies involved in this tournament shall have any liability for accidents or injuries incurred on the ice, at Stagecoach State Park or during travel to or from the tournament.

14. **Acceptance of Rules:** By registering for the 11th Annual Yampa Valley Anglers Ice Fishing Tournament at Stagecoach State Park all contestants agree to comply with all stated tournament and Colorado Parks and Wildlife rules.

Tournament rules are subject to change without notice up to 8am on the day of the event. Know the Rules!

15. **Cancellation:** Adverse ice conditions resulting in safety issues could cause this tournament to be canceled. In the event of cancellation all pre-registered contestants will be contacted to arrange a refund of registration fees. The refund will be available for pick-up at the Stagecoach State Park office from the date of cancellation through January 19th, 2024. All unclaimed refund registration fees will be forfeit and donated after January 19th, 2024.
16. **Optional Raffle** will be sold by The Friends of Stagecoach State Park and Yampa Valley Anglers.

For questions and/or additional information please contact: Ryan Herbert with Yampa Valley Anglers
970-819-4376. Stagecoach State Park: 970-736-2436 / dnr_stagecoach.park@state.co.us
Tournament Location: 25500 County Road 14, Oak Creek, CO 80467