

TIP-UP TOWN USA 2026
Fishing Contest Sponsored by Lyman's On The Lake
Weigh-in January 24th & 31st
FISHING RULES AND REGULATIONS

The aim of the Tip-Up Town USA Fishing Contest is to promote ice fishing on Houghton Lake. We wish to provide a family-friendly, good-natured competitive event that rewards both dedicated fishermen and novices alike.

Contestants must have a Tip-Up Town USA 2026 badge to enter the Fishing Contest. Pre-registration is not required.

Only fish caught from Houghton Lake during the contest timeframe will be eligible.

The Official Weigh Station located at the TUT site will be open both weekends on Saturday starting at noon. Each weekend is a separate contest. Officials will identify the last person in line at the close of the event. Prizes will be awarded following the weigh-in. The officials' decision will be final regarding any suspected cheating.

All current DNR fishing regulations apply to this contest except for the following: **All panfish must be a minimum of (7) seven inches in length to be eligible.**

First Weekend, Friday January 23rd and Saturday January 24th

Open to everyone of all ages. The contest will start at **noon on Friday** and run until weigh-in at **3pm on Saturday**. Contestants will NOT be required to check-in prior to the start, but MUST be in line by 3pm Saturday at the weigh-in.

INDIVIDUAL LARGEST FISH CATEGORY

- Largest Fish Classes will be determined by weight. In case of a tie, length will determine the winner.
- Three separate classes; Walleye, Northern Pike and Panfish (Bluegill/Sunfish, Crappie, Rock Bass and Perch)
- Prizes only awarded to 1st place in each individual largest fish class. All ages will compete for 1st place.
- Everyone who enters at least one fish in the contest will receive a ticket for a chance to win the Grand Prize.

LARGEST TOTAL CATCH CATEGORY

- 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners awarded per class and per age group; Adults (17 years old +) and Kids (16 and under)
- There are a total of three classes. Winners will be determined by the total weight of each class.
 - **Walleye:** 3 Fish Limit
 - **Northern Pike:** 3 pike limit – only one can be over 24"
 - **Panfish Catch Combo** 10 fish limit, 7" min length, includes Bluegill/Sunfish, Crappie, Rock Bass and Perch

Second Weekend, Friday January 30th and Saturday January 31st

Kids Only Fishing Contest! Must be 16 or younger. The contest will start at **noon on Friday** and run until weigh-in at **3pm on Saturday**. Contestants will NOT be required to check-in prior to the start, but MUST be in line by 3pm Saturday.

KIDS' FISHING CONTEST CATEGORIES

- **Largest Individual Fish.** 1st, 2nd & 3rd place awarded for the biggest fish regardless of species. Winners will be determined by weight. In case of a tie, length will determine the winner.
- **Largest Total Catch.** 1st, 2nd & 3rd place awarded for combined species determined by weight. (Panfish must be at least 7 inches.)
- **Perch Catch, Measure & Release.** On the honor system. Grab a pen, paper and measuring tape. Catch a perch, write down the length and release, re-bait and repeat. No limit. 1st, 2nd & 3rd place awarded for the longest combined length of perch. Must submit paperwork at time of weigh-in.
- **Most Patriotically Dressed** Winner determined by crowd applause.