

Joe Donahoe: Hey listeners, this is Joe Donahoe with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service here at Fishhook Lake, the grounds of the 2010 National Scout Jamboree, celebrating its 100th year anniversary in the United States of America on the beautiful grounds of Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia. Currently, I'm standing at Fishhook Lake. I'm standing here with...

Jarrad Kosa: Jarrad Kosa, Fish and Wildlife Service.

Joe: Ok, and explain to the listeners out there right now that are sitting at home or at their offices exactly what we're looking at right here.

Jarrad: We've got Fishhook Lake. It's shaped like a boomerang. Several hundred yards wide. Nice deep lake. Absolutely loaded with giant channel catfish provided by the Harrison Lake National Fish Hatchery. We have a ton of youth out here fishing. Many of them are using fly casting rigs, doing an amazing job. They've got some incredible fly casting instruction by one of the best fly casting instructors in the world, Bob Sousa. We've got fast action. There's a kid right over here just reeled in a monster catfish. I don't know if it's his ever, but you would think it was Christmas over here on the shore of Fishhook Lake. This kid is out of his mind! We've got many great adult volunteers from the Fish and Wildlife Service, the fishing tackle industry, Berkeley Pure Fishing. We've got adult scouts from the BSA, all donating their time to provide an incredible experience out here, getting these kids fired up not just about fishing, but maybe careers in conservation. We know that many of the kids that are here are going to look to the future at careers in natural resources. It's been proven much of the leadership of the Fish and Wildlife Service and other great conservation agencies are filled with adults who spent time in the Boy Scouts of America. I personally work with several Eagle Scouts. I'm a scoutmaster myself. Right behind us here, we have this unbelievable setup. These volunteers here are showing these boys how to clean their catch. Imagine coming out here and paying to spend their week showing kids how to clean their fish but they're doing an incredible job of it, working really hard. Working closely with this other tent over here where they're cooking up their catch. These guys are brooding and frying up their catfish, and I see them whipping up some hush puppies as well. It's very impressive. It's a beautiful sunny day here. We've got a nice breeze. Yeah it's hot but this breeze is nice and cool. Here in the shade, it's very, very tolerable. Boy, what else can I tell you? It's non-stop action here at Fishhook Lake!

Joe: From everything from tying your fly to going out there and fishing. Then catching and cooking your food. It is the complete, I think, experience that you could get here at Fishhook Lake.

Jarrad: Well, the point here is to come out and have fun, but if you're a Boy Scout, you're thinking about advancement. You might want to learn about some of these things a little more in depth. You could head on over to the Fish and Wildlife Service Tent. We'll give you the instruction that you need, all the basics for a fishing merit badge. We'll get you started on the knots for the fly fishing merit badge. And we have the fish and wildlife management merit badge as well. That's my personal favorite. And, oh, here's the coolest thing! If you earn any one of those merit badges, you get the rarest

patch at the Jamboree. It's very special, approved by the Boy Scouts of America. Red, white and blue. It's not the point of taking a merit badge, but it's a pretty cool bonus.

Joe: Definitely a good bonus, that's for sure.

Jarrad: It's red hot in the trading circles!

Joe: Absolutely. I know what you mean. Well it looks like it is just bumping out here! Everybody has either gotten a fish or is ready to get one. I hear kids yelling in the background, "Fish on! Fish on!" meaning they got a fish and they're ready to get that in and cook it up, that is for sure.

Jarrad: It is awesome! It is a spectacle out here! If you haven't made it out to Fishhook Lake yet, don't miss it! Get here early. The fishing is red hot! The lake is loaded! They're just about jumping onto the shorelines, so if you want to see the ultimate fishing situation, don't go to the Kenai River in Alaska. You don't need to go to the bass lakes of Florida. For the next 10 days, it's right here in Northern Virginia at the Jamboree site, Fishhook Lake.

Joe: And one night here, one more quick fact is that we're stocking more fish tomorrow?

Jarrad: It's a closely guarded secret that we're providing another 10,000 giant channel catfish!

Joe: Wow!

Jarrad: Yeah, so you know, if you think you can handle the monster fish on the end of your line, get down here early. Bait up your hook. We'll show you how it's done at Fishhook Lake.

Joe: Well, definitely no shortage of fish here at Fishhook Lake on the grounds of Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia. Until our next interview, this is Joe Donahoe doing the onsite interview here at Fishhook Lake for the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Jarrad: Holy cow! He's got one on!

Joe: Oh, look at the face!