



Disabled Military Veteran Fishing Tournament

CANDLEWOOD LAKE

The Candlewood Lake Veteran's Fishing tournament is part of the Gaylord Sports Association's Veterans Event Series (SAVES) and is organized in partnership with Connecticut BASS Nation and the Major Steven Roy Andrews Fishing Outreach Program. The goals of the SAVES program are to support veterans in attaining a healthy lifestyle, better quality of life, and new peer relationships through adaptive sports. The Sports Association welcomes and encourages disabled veteran participation in any of our adaptive sports programs.

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

CANDLEWOOD LAKE

47 Hayestown Rd, Danbury, CT

Application Deadline: Friday, April 3, 2026

TOURNAMENT DETAILS:

This is an open water bass fishing tournament. Each veteran will be paired with an experienced angler and boat captain from CT BASS NATION for a day on the water. Fishing equipment and tackle will be provided by the boat captain. All participants will receive a bag with snacks and drinks for the day. After fishing, each pair will bring their fish to the weigh-in station. Prizes are awarded for the top 3 weights. The event will conclude with an awards luncheon at the Hatter's Pavilion.

TOURNAMENT RULES: Each pair can weigh-in up to 5 fish (veteran must catch at least 2 fish).

ELIGIBILITY:

This tournament is for veterans who have a permanent physical disability, visual impairment or PTSD. If you do not meet these qualifications, the Gaylord Sports Association reserves the right to decline your application. Priority will be given to veterans with a permanent physical disability or visual impairment.

COST:

This program is funded in part by a grant from the United States Department of Veteran Affairs in partnership with Move United Warfighter Sports Program and is offered at NO COST for veterans.

TIMELINE:

Check-in: 7:00 am – 7:15 AM

Fish: 8:00 am – 2:00 PM

Weigh-In: 2:00 – 3:00 PM

Awards and Lunch: 3:00 – 4:00 PM

Please arrive on time. We may not be able to accommodate you if you arrive after the start of the tournament. Please call us at 203-671-8122 if you will be late.

PROVIDED: All fishing equipment and tackle, life jacket, light breakfast, snacks, awards luncheon.

WHAT TO BRING:

- **Clothing:** Please be prepared for varying weather conditions. It is suggested to dress in layers, including a short-sleeve, long-sleeve, warm layer, rain jacket and pants. Please wear sturdy footwear (no flip flops, loose sandals). You may want to bring a hat and sunscreen as well.
- **Food:** A light breakfast (bagels, coffee, fruit) and a bag with light snacks and a couple of drinks (water and Gatorade) is provided. However, if you would like something more substantial, please pack a lunch or bring additional snacks. The awards luncheon will include lunch at approximately 3:00.
- **Equipment:** Fishing equipment, tackle and life jacket will be provided. However, please feel free to bring your own fishing equipment.

TRANSPORTATION: Transportation is not provided by the Gaylord Sports Association, however transportation may be arranged with pick up at the West Haven, CT VA. Please call Craig Funaro at 203-508-7722 or email Craig.Funaro@va.gov to reserve a spot on the VA Bus after being notified of your acceptance as a participant in the tournament.

HOTEL: For veterans who may need a hotel the night of May 11, a small room block has been reserved at the Hampton Inn, 81 Newtown Rd, Danbury, CT 06810, 203-748-6677, 401-823-4041. Please use code: **Gaylord Sports Association** when reserving room. Reservations can be made once veterans are notified of acceptance. Please request accessible room if needed. The price is \$159.00 plus tax. Please book your room directly with the hotel by April 20, 2026. Veterans will pay for their room directly. Reimbursement through the Sports Association for a one night hotel stay is available. On the day of the tournament, submit your receipt to the Sports Association and you will be mailed a reimbursement check. Please notify us if you will be staying in the hotel.

CONFIRMATION POLICY:

A Sports Association staff member will call and/or email all accepted participants by April 13th. Participants must return phone call or email with their confirmation of attendance by April 27th. If we do not receive confirmation by this date you will be removed from the registration list. If participant cancels within 24 hours or does not show up for the tournament, we reserve the right to place them on the waitlist for the next tournament. Please contact us as soon as possible if you need to cancel. It is the veteran's responsibility to update the Sports Association if their contact information changes and if they must cancel.

WEATHER: Heavy rain and/or thunderstorms will postpone this event. We will notify you via email and/or phone with any changes to event schedule.

APPLICATION: Please use the following link to apply for participation in the tournament. The deadline for applications is April 3, 2026. We recommend applying as early as possible as this tournament has a limited number of spots and fills quickly. We are not able to accommodate late applications. ***You are not fully registered until all forms are received and you are notified of acceptance.***

Fishing Tournament Application Form and Waivers: <https://form.jotform.com/220335642697157>

Thank you and we hope to see you soon!

Katie Joly

A Sports Association staff member will call you once we receive your application materials to discuss your application.

Gaylord Specialty Healthcare
Gaylord Sports Association
P.O. Box 400
Wallingford, CT 06492

Contact:
Gaylord Sports Association
203-284-2772 sports@gaylord.org
www.gaylord.org/sports