

Media Contact: Jeff Dingler, Communications Manager  
Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance  
p: 678-699-2768 | e: jeff@arabiaalliance.org



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## Arabia Alliance Receives \$23,950 Junior Ranger Angler Grant

*In February, the Arabia Alliance was awarded a grant from the National Parks Foundation to develop a Junior Ranger Angler Program to introduce children to the basics of fishing while supporting cultural connections, deepening community relationships, and creating sustainable opportunities for youth to grow their skills and confidence.*

**LITHONIA & STONECREST, GA** – It’s a summer for fishing in Atlanta! This February, the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area (AMNHA) was awarded a grant to develop a Junior Ranger Angler Program to help teach kids and their adults about fishing, water safety, and environmental stewardship. The grant was awarded from the National Parks Foundation in the amount of \$23,950 and will make fishing and education about it more accessible in the Heritage Area.

Already this grant money has been put to good use purchasing fishing rods for public use at free fishing events supporting teen leadership development and the hiring of an angler coordinator for the NHA. The Heritage Area’s first Junior Ranger Angler Fishing with Friends on 5/18 and Father’s Day Fishing 6/15 were both fully registered with 25 participants each! And at the Great American Campout and Environmental Career Day at Hairston Park on 6/22, 50 people registered and even more showed up for the Arabia Alliance’s Fishing 101 with our Junior Ranger Angler Coordinator, Ranger Evonne Blythers.

“Our goal is not to just teach fishing but to expose young people to the natural, historical and cultural relevance of the waterways in the region which we believe will reinforce the importance of protecting our lakes and rivers,” said Arabia Alliance Program Manager Jennifer Dickie, who’s spearheaded this new fishing education initiative at Arabia Mountain NHA. “We want young people to know they are part of the solution to preserving their waterways by using them for recreation.”

This newly created Junior Ranger Angler Program, part of the National Park Service’s Junior Ranger Program, offers free and accessible fishing to Metro Atlanta. The program uses the [National Park Service’s Let’s Go Fishing](#) book. Fishing equipment is provided at every event in partnership with the Georgia DNR, or participants can bring their own to use. Junior Rangers who complete these fishing basics earn a special Junior Ranger Angler badge too!

Expect more Junior Ranger Angler events in the fall, including a Junior Ranger Angler Fishing with Friends day, an Introduction to Fly Fishing, and a Fishing Derby! For more information, visit [www.arabiaalliance.org](http://www.arabiaalliance.org).

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*Participants at a Junior Ranger Angler event in the Heritage Area. (Arabia Alliance)*



*Junior Ranger Angler Coordinator Blythers, center, teaches children from NPS' "Let's Go Fishin" book. (Arabia Alliance)*