



GAME AND FISH NEWS

For immediate release, Aug. 1, 2018
Arizona Game and Fish Department

Contact:
Nick Walter, Public Information Officer
(623) 236-7214, nwalter@azgfd.gov

AZGFD releases Top-5 family camping and fishing spots for August



Family fishing and camping during summers in Arizona can produce some of the best memories life can spawn. What makes for good camping and fishing during triple-digit months of desert sweat? Escaping to the high country for a ton of stocked or self-sustaining fish, quality camping amenities, and scenery that's as cool as the air temps.

[Fire restrictions have been lifted](#), allowing campfires and gooey s'mores for kids. But please remain vigilant with fire safety, and also be safe with summer monsoon storms -- get off the water when you hear lightning, watch out for flash flooding, and don't forget to bring a few extra layers and a rain jacket to stay comfortable in the mountain cold.

Here is the Arizona Game and Fish Department's top-5 list of family camping and fishing spots.

5. Kaibab Lake



This family-friendly camping area is a few miles from Williams and an hour's drive from the Grand Canyon to the north. We recently had a report of excellent fishing with anglers catching trout and crappie on small jigs and lures.

PowerBait fished on the bottom also has been working. Catfish are being caught on nightcrawlers and prepared catfish baits. More than 40,000 trout have been stocked in the lake this year.

Directions: From Flagstaff, take I-40 west to Exit 165; turn north onto AZ 64 and go about 2 miles to the campground entrance on your left. Paved and all-weather gravel roads are suitable for passenger cars (but in winter may be closed at times because of snow). [See a Google map.](#)

4. Fool Hollow Lake



An excellent fishery for getting the family into the outdoors and onto sunfish and mudbugs (crawdads). Has excellent family-fishing amenities such as clean and spacious campgrounds, picnic areas and fishing piers. Kids can catch sunfish off piers and over rocky shoreline areas using No. 12 hooks and small pieces of worms. Crayfish can be trapped here as well.

[See a video](#) on how to catch both. The lake has self-sustaining populations

of largemouth and smallmouth bass, sunfish, walleye, carp, catfish, black crappie and black bullhead that are easy for kids to catch (try a simple worm on the bottom). Fishing also is good for 12-inch stocked rainbow trout -- try fishing at least 10 feet deep.

Directions: Fool Hollow Lake Recreation Area is located in east-central Arizona, two miles north of US 60 off Highway 260 in Show Low. [See a Google map.](#)

3. Show Low Lake (and Show Low Creek)



Possibly the state's premier walleye fishery. Has a year-round concession with 75 campsites (seven have electric hook-ups). New facility improvements, including a new fish cleaning station, restrooms, stairs from the upper parking lot down to the boat launch, and ADA boat trailer parking are now open. The lake and creek are great for putting the family on trout, sunfish and crayfish.

In addition to the premier walleye, the lake also has smallmouth and largemouth bass, channel catfish, and bluegill, and is stocked regularly through the summer with 12-inch rainbow trout. Kids can catch sunfish from the fishing piers or among the rocks along the dam with a small hook and piece of worm.

AZGFD spring surveys showed high populations of smallmouth bass in the lake, so throwing spinnerbaits or crayfish imitations could produce some nice fish. The [meadows portion of Show Low Creek](#) also is a great family fishing area for channel catfish that are being stocked. It's easy to access and is excellent for kids -- there's even a disc golf course.

Directions: From Show Low, take Show Low Road southeast one mile from Highway 260. [See a Google map.](#)

2. Woods Canyon Lake



A family fishing mecca. Woods has been stocked with tiger trout, and along with nearby Willow Springs Lake, is scheduled to be loaded with rainbow trout weekly.

For families who aren't in to camping in a tent or camper during the summer monsoon storms, the closest lodging is at [Forest Lakes Lodge](#), just 11 1/2 miles away on Highway 260.

A little tip: refuel your automobile at the Rim Resort Filling Station, just a mile east of the Forest Lakes Lodge on Hwy 260. Call 928-535-9682 to ensure it's open.

Back to fishing. For a novice angler – or for a kid's first fish – try putting a small piece of a worm on a small hook (No. 12 or smaller) and dangle it in shallow water between rocks for sunfish. Don't forget about catching crayfish, too.

The best bet for anglers with boats or kayaks (the [Woods Canyon Lake Store](#) has boat and canoe/kayak rentals and necessary camping amenities) is to hit the water just before sunrise and troll, or slowly work, small in-line spinners 15 feet deep. Any deeper, and you're typically fishing below the thermocline where during the summer there is no oxygen. Anglers could have no problems getting a six trout daily bag limit or hooking into a rod-rattling tiger trout.

Directions: From Phoenix, take Highway 87 (Beeline Highway) northeast to Payson and then Highway 260 east to Forest Road 300 (Rim Road). Then turn north onto paved Forest Road 105 and proceed about a mile to the lake. The lake is about 30 miles east of Payson. [See a Google map.](#)

1. Big Lake



An Arizona summertime family staple.

Cutthroats have been biting on and off, and there are plenty of rainbow trout along with lots of crayfish for kids if the trout are not biting.

The best part may be the excellent and plentiful campground amenities. Shore-angling is still an option, but as the summer goes along, you might want a boat (rentals are available at the store) because most trout will be deep.

Trolling from a boat is the most productive method during the summer. If shore fishing, get out early or late in the day, and take cover in your vehicle or camp during monsoon/lightning storms.

Directions: Big Lake is accessed via state routes 260 and 273 (Forest Road 113). [See a Google map.](#)

Remember to [check fire restrictions](#), as well as any [special regulations](#), that are in place.

[So grab a license](#) online (that helps conserve all species of wildlife, not to mention provides funding that goes back into fishing opportunities) and go.

You won't regret the memories.

Did you know?

The Arizona Game and Fish Department conserves and protects Arizona's 800+ wildlife species but receives NO Arizona general fund tax dollars. Contribute to our on-the-ground conservation efforts at www.AzWildlifeHero.com.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, religion, or disability in its programs and activities. If anyone believes that they have been discriminated against in any of the AZGFD's programs or activities, including its employment practices, the individual may file a complaint alleging discrimination directly with the Director's Office, 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ 85086-5000, (602) 942-3000, or with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Attn: Civil Rights Coordinator for Public Access, 5275 Leesburg Pike, MS:WSFR, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803. Persons with a disability may request a

reasonable accommodation or this document in an alternative format by contacting the Director's Office as listed above.

Arizona Game & Fish Dept. · 5000 W. Carefree Hwy, Phoenix, AZ 85086
(602) 942-3000 · www.azgfd.gov

