**2020!**

**The 12th year of VIP Fishing in Connecticut!**

Once again the Berlin Lions are proud to continue their sponsorship of the CONNECTICUT Visually Impaired Person’s (VIP) Junior and Senior Fishing Tournaments. No fee is charged to register or attend the tournaments. Everything needed for an exciting day of fishing and fellowship: a light breakfast, fishing poles, bait, lunch, and awards are all provided. The top three anglers in both tournaments receive trophies.

The Connecticut VIP Tournament Committee works closely with the Bureau of Education and Services for the Blind (BESB), the Blind Veterans Association (BVA), the Federation of the Blind, Berlin Lions, and Lions Clubs from around the state. These tournaments are possible through the volunteer support and financial assistance of these organizations and private donations.

The VIP tournaments are not just any day of fishing! They are exciting days filled with old and new found friendships and networking. They are also educational and offer the opportunity for personal growth and empowerment.

**Dates**

* Sunday, April 26, 2020 – Junior VIP Fishing Tournament
* Monday, May 18, 2020 – Senior VIP Fishing Tournament

**Junior VIP Fishing Tournament**

The Junior VIP event is open to all visually impaired children ages 3 to 18 years of age. Every child that registers for the event will receive a participatory trophy. If registration is received before April 10, 2020, our junior VIP’s will receive a tournament shirt.

**Location**

**Sage Park Pond**1591 Berlin Turnpike, Berlin, Connecticut

**Schedule**

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| **8:30 – 9:30am** | Registration and Breakfast *(Coffee, juice, bagels, muffins, donuts, fruit, yogurt)* |
| **9:30 – 12:00PM** | Fishing |
| **12:00 noon** | Lunch and Awards |

**Senior VIP Fishing Tournament**

The Senior VIP tournament, open to those legally blind age 16 and older, is a full day of fishing aboard the Black Hawk Fishing Charter or the Sunbeam Fleet out of Niantic, CT. Your boat charter will be assigned after all registrations are received.

In addition to competing for trophies, the top three anglers are eligible to represent Connecticut at the 2020 New England, and National, VIP Fishing Tournaments held October 18-21, 2020 on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. **The North Carolina Lions VIP Fishing Tournament is the largest service project of its kind in the world.**

**Location**

[Black Hawk Fishing Charter](http://www.blackhawksportfishing.com/)
11 East Main Street (GPS Address)
Niantic, CT

[Sunbeam Fleet](http://sunbeamfleet.com/)
15 First Street
Waterford, CT

**Schedule -**

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| **7:00 – 7:30AM**  |  | Check in and board the charter.*Beverages, bagels, muffins, donuts, snacks will be available for breakfast. Turkey and Ham sandwiches will be available for lunch.* |
| **7:30 am** |  | Depart for fishing.*Food and beverages will be provided on the boat.* |
| **3:00-3:30 pm** |  | Approximate return to dock. After returning to the dock, all participants, guides and volunteers go to the Lyme Tavern, 229 West Main Street, Niantic for dinner and awards. Dinner choices will be on your application. |