BIG TROUT CONTEST

CONTEST OVERVIEW:

Whether you are an expert angler or brand new to the sport, we invite you to grab a partner and sign up for the Big Trout Contest. The friendly contest will take place during Trinity Flyfest on the Trinity River and prizes will be awarded for most fish caught, longest fish caught and hooking an official “Golden Palomino Trout".

Teams will be required to pre-register online prior to the event. There will be no onsite sign ups. You must have a partner to sign up. (50) team registration signups will be offered online. If you must back out of the contest, please contact us at least 48 hours prior to the event for a full refund. There will be **no refunds** after that. If all the slots are full, you may sign up on our virtual waiting list by emailing flyfest@trwd.com. We will contact you in the event of a cancellation.

Please note, bait fishing will not be allowed within the contest area. Only hand-tied flies will be permitted. Bait fishing will only be allowed within the designated open fishing area.

PRE-REGISTRATION

- Online advanced registration is required. There will be no onsite signups.
- Each contestant will need to register online with their name, address, phone number, and e- mail.
- Registration is $100 per team and must be paid online.
- There will be a total of 50 team spots available.
- Teams will be comprised of two anglers.

CONTEST CHECK-IN

- Registrants will need to arrive 30 minutes before the heat start time to check in.
- Each contestant will be required to show their fishing license and valid Government ID at the time of check in.
- Registrants will be given a numbered colored registration card that will be worn around the neck during their heat.
- Registrants will then need to report to the “Heat Check-in” across the river 15 minutes prior to their heat start time.

HEATS

Each heat will be comprised of ten teams. Prizes will be awarded within each heat, in addition to grand prizes for all heats. More information on prizes can be found below.

Heat 1:	PURPLE	9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Heat 2:	RED	11:00a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Heat 3:	BLUE	12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Heat 4:	GREEN	2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Heat 5:	YELLOW	3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

OFFICIAL FISHING MONITORS

Official Fishing Monitors will be in charge of verifying the cumulative number of fish caught for each team and assisting with measurement of a trout that is large enough to qualify for the Big Trout (i.e., longest) category. Trout must be over 10" long to be considered for the Big Trout prize. All trout that merit measurement will be logged by an Official Fishing Monitor on the team's log sheet. Official Fishing Monitors will also record the first angler that catches a "golden trout" each heat. All Fishing Monitors will turn in every log sheet to the judges immediately upon completion of each heat.

PRIZES

HEAT PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded to teams within each heat immediately after each heat, and respective fish-off (if necessary). Anglers must be present to claim their prize.

Heat Winners: Team Most Fish Caught (any species) – the team with the most cumulative points within their heat will be declared the winner. Any fish "caught" will be counted as one point each, including "Golden Trout." Should a tie occur, a winner will be determined in a fish-off immediately following that heat with both members of each team fishing concurrently. The first team to catch a fish wins. Any fish caught during a fish-off does not add to the team's cumulative heat score. The fish-off is considered for tie-breaking purposes only and bragging rights.

Heat Winners: Individual Big Trout (i.e., longest) – the individual team member who catches the longest singular trout (length in inches rounded down to the nearest quarter inch) within the heat will be declared the winner. Should a tie occur, a winner will be determined in a fish-off (first person to catch a trout wins). Only Rainbow Trout will be considered, no other fish species caught during the contest will count.

Heat Winners: Individual Golden Trout – "Golden Trout" will be stocked in the river as an added bonus in the contest. The first individual to catch a "golden trout" within their heat will be awarded a prize.

All heat winners need to report to the stage to receive their award and get a picture when their heat is over

GRAND PRIZES

Grand Prizes will be awarded to the top teams and individuals out of all heats. Grand prize winners will be announced at the end of the last heat. Grand Prize winners must be present to claim their prize.

Grand Prize: Team Most Fish Caught – the team with the most cumulative points for most fish caught during any 1-hour heat (excludes any caught to determine tie-breaker) at the Trinity Flyfest competition will be awarded a grand prize. Should a tie occur, a winner will be determined in a fish-off immediately following the last heat. Heat winners should monitor the heat results to anticipate need to participate in a grand prize fish-off. If a team is not present, geared and ready to begin 15 minutes after the final heat that team forfeits opportunity to participate in the grand prize fish-off for Most Fish Caught. The fish-off must consist of the same team members that won in the qualifying heats. Rules for Grand Prize Team Most Fish Caught fish-off will be announced when teams meet with judges before the Grand Prize Fish-Off begins. Rules may differ from heat fish-offs due to weather or fishing conditions. $400 Visa Gift Card as well as other prizes

Grand Prize: Individual Big Trout (i.e., longest) – the individual team member who catches the largest singular trout (length in inches rounded down to the nearest quarter inch) of the day will be declared the Grand Prize Individual Big Trout winner. Should a tie occur, a winner will be determined in a fish-off immediately following the last heat. Individual Big Trout winners from each heat should monitor the heat results to anticipate need to participate in a grand prize fish-off. If an Individual Big Trout heat winner in not present, geared and ready to begin 15 minutes after the final heat that individual forfeits opportunity to participate in the grand prize fish-off for Individual Big Trout. The fish-off must consist of the individuals that won in the qualifying heats. Rules for Grand Prize Individual Big Trout fish-off will be announced when individuals meet with judges before the Grand Prize Fish-Off begins. Rules may differ from heat fish-offs due to weather or fishing conditions. $200 Visa Gift Card as well as other prizes

Winners need to report to the stage for awards ceremony, prizes and pictures immediately following the contest

RULES

Failure to abide by the rules will result in disqualification from the contest.

1. All contestants will be required to show a valid fishing license and valid Government ID at Contest Check-In. At Contest Check-In each contestant will be given a colored numbered lanyard badge that must later be used to check in with judges at Heat Check-In and worn while competing.
2. Contestants will be required to supply all of their own equipment.
3. All contestants must use a rubber landing net (nets will be provided if you do not have your own).
4. Only hand-tied flies will be allowed for fishing in the contest. No artificial lures, power baits, rubber worms including sili worms, squirmy worms, etc or other non-fly fishing baits will be allowed. Flies will be checked by the Official Judges and Fishing Monitors. Only a single dropper attached to the main fly is allowed.
5. Both team members must check-in at the Contest registration table at least 30 minutes before their designated heat to receive the colored numbered lanyard. Both team members must check in with judges across the river at Heat Check-In at least 15 minutes before their designated heat. At Heat Check-In contestants will be required to provide their colored numbered lanyard badge that was issued at the Contest Check-In table. If BOTH members of a team fail to check in with judges 15 minutes before their heat is to begin they will be disqualified with no refunds.
6. Only the fish caught in the designated contest fishing area will qualify. Map of the official contest boundaries will be provided at the time of registration and at Heat Check-in. (NOTICE: Judges do reserve the right to change boundaries based on conditions day of competition. If changes do occur, maps and boundary descriptions will be provided by judges during Heat Check-In.)
7. Fishing from the shore is not allowed. Contestants' feet must be in the river.
8. Only one person from each team can fish at a time for a full 10-minute period. Teams will be required to switch who is casting after each ten-minute period.
9. Team members are allowed to assist one another at any point during the heat. It is permissible for team members to share/swap gear and/or touch/assist/modify the casting member's gear even while in use.
   (BUT SEE Rule 11.)
10. The non-casting team member is allowed to help net the fish. HOWEVER, the non-casting member is NOT ALLOWED to take over the rod with a fish to help land.
11. Only caught fish will be counted.
12. "Caught" means netted and acknowledged or measured by an Official Fishing Monitor. It is the team's responsibility to secure the acknowledgement and measurement confirmation from an

Official Fishing Monitor. Monitors have no obligation to enter the water or approach the contestant at any time.

13. Teams do not need to bring the netted trout to a monitor unless there is a desire for the netted trout to be measured. An acknowledgement by an Official Fishing Monitor with communication regarding which team to credit the netted trout is sufficient.
14. If a cast has landed in the water before the judges announce it is time to switch which team member is casting during a heat, the cast may be fished out; however, the other team member cannot cast until the team member's line is in.
15. If a cast has landed in the water before the official stop time of the heat, the cast may be fished out and any fish caught will count towards contest tabulations for that heat.
16. If there is a tie at the end of heat necessitating a fish-off to determine a heat winner for most fish caught or and individual winner for Big Trout, the fish caught in the fish-off does not count in the tabulations for overall grand prizes. The fish caught is considered for tie-breaking purposes only.
17. Fish-offs will take place immediately following the heat the contestants participate in.
18. Catch and release is required within the contest boundaries during festival hours.
19. Individuals are only allowed to fish in one heat.
20. Participation in the Big Trout Contest at Trinity Flyfest is strictly limited to **Amateur Fly Fishers**. Professional Fishing Guides and individuals who are recognized or reasonably classified as professional anglers within the sport of fly fishing are not eligible to participate.
    By registering for the competition, each team member represents and certifies that they meet the amateur eligibility requirements and are not a Professional Fishing Guide or otherwise considered a professional angler.

Trinity Flyfest reserves the sole right to determine participant eligibility and to investigate any concerns regarding an individual's professional status. If, at any time before or during the competition, it is determined that either team member is a Professional Fishing Guide or qualifies as a professional angler, the entire team will be immediately disqualified and removed from the competition.

All registration fees are nonrefundable. Disqualification resulting from a violation of these eligibility requirements, whether discovered before, during, or after registration, will not entitle the team or either individual participant to a refund, credit, or other compensation.

By registering, each participant acknowledges, understands, and agrees to these eligibility requirements and the consequences of violating them.