

BLOWING ROCK, N.C. — The 39th Annual Blowing Rock Trout Derby will take place in and around North Carolina's Prettiest Small Town on Saturday, April 7, from sunrise to 4:00 p.m. No entry fees are required and no pre-registration is necessary.

There is plenty of free parking available only a short distance from Broyhill Lake, which will be stocked with hundreds of fish in the days leading up to the Derby, and where fish will be tagged with special prizes for kids. Fish include brown, speckled and rainbow trout.

Derby headquarters, where information is distributed and participants' fish are measured and registered, is the Blowing Rock Clubhouse at 108 Lakeside Drive in Blowing Rock. Chetola Resort Orvis endorsed Fly Fishing will also be there demonstrating fly fishing techniques throughout the day and will be raffling a fly fishing float trip for two.

"Our whole area looks forward to the Blowing Rock Trout Derby. It's the unofficial start of spring in our town and we always enjoy welcoming visitors from across the region to experience a uniquely Blue Ridge event. Trout fishing in this area is something that helps set our destination apart from other places across the state and brings many visitors to town," said Tracy Brown, Executive Director, Blowing Rock TDA.

First-place winners will receive trophies in five divisions: Men, Women, Girls and Boys (12-15) and Small Fries (11 and under). Special prizes will be awarded to the first fish, largest trout in each species, and tagged fish. The North Carolina Wildlife Commission supports the Trout Derby with free "Fish for Fun" bags, including a tackle box, regulation book, bumper sticker stringer and bobber. There will also be free Trout Derby T-shirts.

For more information on the Trout Derby and overnight accommodations in the Blowing Rock area, visit blowingrock.com or contact the Visitor Center at 828.295.4636.

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