

## **Mississippi Field Office's Youth Ambassador Malika Shettar Volunteers at Outdoorama**

Article by Connie Dickard, Mississippi Field Office, Jackson, Mississippi, 2011

The Mississippi Field Office's youth ambassador, Malika Shettar, along with about 500 kids and adults, celebrated National Hunting and Fishing Day and National Public Lands Day at the Mississippi Wildlife Federation's annual event called Outdoorama on the Rez.

Malika volunteered at the fishing station, plus she made the rounds to all of the other activities, taking lots of pictures as she went along. In addition to capturing kids on camera while they caught several catfish, Malika also took some super shots of the budding boys and girls learning how to: reload shells, shoot skeet and sporting clays, tie flies and fly fish, use a bow and arrow, and canoe. There were some more Kodak moments of the children learning to use a tree stand safely, learning about boating safety, watching how knives are made, and enjoying several different kinds of live animals up close and personal.

The children, ranging in age from 5 years to 14, got some fun hands-on experience with the tools and concepts of hunting and fishing in Mississippi as presented by a number of agencies and organizations, including: Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks; Mississippi Museum of Natural Science; American Zookeepers Association; National Wild Turkey Federation; Mississippi Bowhunters Association; Treestand Manufacturers Association and many more.

Outdoorama on the Rez is a free event that takes place every fall at Turcotte Lab, a hunter education and fisheries research facility, located on the Ross Barnett Reservoir near Jackson, Mississippi.



Malika Shettar, Mississippi Field Office's youth ambassador, assists an apprentice angler.  
*Photo by Connie Dickard, FWS.*