

# Silvio O. Conte National Fish & Wildlife Refuge

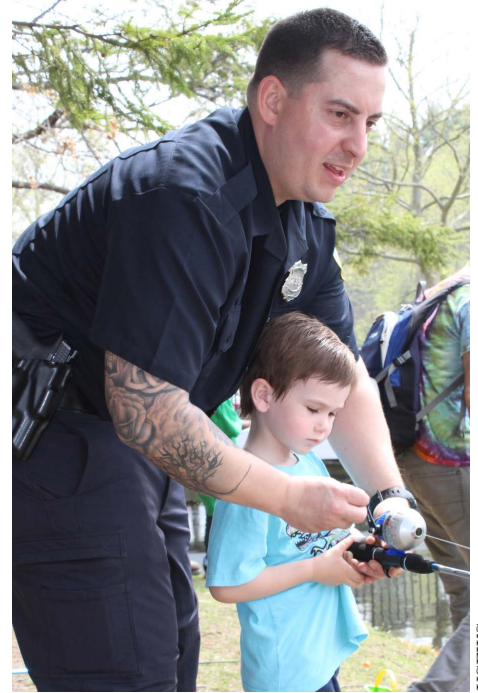
## *Cops & Bobbers - Hooks & Ladders* *Making community connections through fishing*

Cops & Bobbers - Hooks & Ladders is about cultivating and nurturing positive connections and trusting relationships between young people and the law enforcement and emergency officials serving in their communities. Events are targeted for communities where many young people do not have a chance to enjoy quality recreational activities in nature.

Today, many young people spend much time indoors, often not having the opportunity to get outside and enjoy recreation activities such as fishing. The Cops & Bobbers - Hooks & Ladders program offers a safe, fun, and educational event for youth to interact with police, fire, and other safety professionals in an outdoor, natural setting. These events could recruit new anglers who possess an awareness and appreciation for the quality of our water resources for wildlife and people.

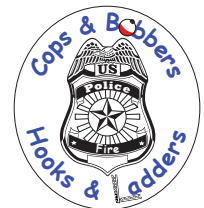
Police officers, fire fighters, EMT's and other professionals invest their time, engaging with young people, while teaching them to fish and talking and learning about each other. The events are made possible through partnerships with Federal and State Governments, community and non-profit organizations and especially local volunteers.

Successful events have been organized in the cities of Hartford, Connecticut, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and Springfield and Northampton, Massachusetts. Events are free of charge for participants and loaner fishing equipment and instruction is provided. If you would like to learn more about the program, or how you can get involved in current programs, or even start one in your own community contact Jennifer Lapis, Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, at [jennifer\\_lapis@fws.gov](mailto:jennifer_lapis@fws.gov).



*Cops and Bobbers - Springfield*

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*Cops & Bobbers - Hooks & Ladders- Hartford*

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