



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Oconee County Public Library Partners with SC Department of Natural Resources for Fishing Loaner Program**

According to the Visit Oconee Website, Oconee County is the place to fish. With over 90,000 acres of lakes and over 100 miles of rivers and streams, you can hook up with world class fish year round! The Westminster branch of the Oconee County Public Library wants to make access to fishing a little easier. Visitors and residents of Oconee County have the ability to borrow fishing equipment from the library for one week with the option for another one-week renewal. A rod, reel, sinker, 3 bobbers, 2 hooks, and instructions on casting a fishing rod is included...the bait is not. You can find bait at local shops and gas stations.

Kids and teens under the age of 16 must have a parent/legal guardian sign a waiver. Everyone age 16 and older must have a valid fishing license. Fishing licenses can be purchased from local verified sellers or on the SCDNR webpage.

Westminster branch manager Leah Price was inspired to start the fishing loaner program after seeing similar programs at various libraries. "Now, more than ever, libraries are more than just books," says Price. Fishing loaner programs are available through the State Parks as well as Oconee County's High Falls and South Cover Parks. Price continues, "By offering fishing equipment at the Westminster branch, we can continue to implement the library's mission of providing resources where people can know their community and satisfy curiosity. Borrowing fishing equipment from the library means you don't have to invest money before you try it out, or you can borrow to have enough equipment for family visitors."

Besides traditional fishing rods, the library also has a fly-fishing pole with flies, children's fishing poles, and tackle boxes to borrow. To find out more information, contact Leah Price at 864-364-5760, or stop by the Westminster Library at 112 W. North Avenue in Westminster.

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