



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PORT FREEPORT ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF THE 26TH ANNUAL TAKE-A-CHILD FISHING TOURNAMENT LOGO DRAWING CONTEST

FREEPORT, TX (March 16, 2026)—Port Freeport is pleased to announce the winners of the 26th Annual Take-A-Child Fishing Tournament (TACFT) Logo Drawing Contest, an annual tradition that highlights the creativity of youth across the Port Freeport Navigation District and builds excitement for one of the region’s most anticipated family events.

First place was awarded to Everly Berry, a 6th-grade student from Our Lady Queen of Peace. She received a \$150 Visa gift card along with a framed print of her winning design. Second place went to Rebekah Calhoun, also from Our Lady Queen of Peace, who received a \$75 Visa gift card and a framed print of her artwork. Third place was awarded to Karmin Velez from Lake Jackson Intermediate, who received a \$50 Visa gift card and a framed print of his drawing.

“The Take-A-Child Fishing Tournament is one of the most meaningful ways we connect with families across our district,” said Rob Giesecke, Chairman of the Port Freeport Commission. “Each year, this logo contest showcases the incredible creativity of our local students while reinforcing the strong relationship between the Port and the community we serve. We congratulate this year’s winners and thank every student, teacher, and family who participated.”

The contest is open to youth ages 3 to 14, from Pre-K through 8th grade, within the Port’s Navigation District. The first-place design will be featured on official tournament materials, including event shirts, promotional graphics, signage, and digital media. This year, Port Freeport received more than 268 entries from schools and youth organizations throughout the district.

In recognition of their creativity and effort, the top 15 finalists will each receive gift cards to local restaurants. Additionally, the Boys and Girls Club submitted the most entries and will receive a

gift card for art supplies to promote ongoing student engagement and creativity.

“We are continually inspired by the enthusiasm and artistic talent demonstrated by students throughout our community,” said Phyllis Saathoff, Executive Director and CEO of Port Freeport. “This contest represents more than artwork; it reflects the excitement families feel for this annual tradition and reinforces our commitment to community engagement. We look forward to welcoming families to another fun-filled tournament.”

The 26th Annual Take-A-Child Fishing Tournament will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2026, from 8 a.m. to noon at Freeport Municipal Park.

Sponsorship opportunities remain available for this longstanding community event. For more information about sponsorships or tournament participation, please visit www.portfreeport.com/community/take-a-child-fishing-tournament, follow Port Freeport on Facebook, or call 979.233.2667

Port Freeport is a leading port in the export of crude oil and natural gas liquids and ranks nationally as 6th in chemicals, 14th in total foreign waterborne tonnage, and 26th in containers. A 2022 Economic Impact Study by Texas A&M Transportation Institute revealed that, nationally, the Freeport Harbor Channel generates 266,300 jobs and has a total economic output of \$157.3 billion. Port Freeport serves Alliera, Atlantic Container Lines, AMPORTS, BASF, Chiquita Fresh N.A., Dole Fresh Fruit, The Dow Chemical Company, Enterprise Products Partners, ExxonMobil, Freeport LNG, Fresh Del Monte Produce Inc., Ford Motor Company, General Motors, Glovis, Grimaldi Lines, Hoegh Autoliners, Kirby Marine, Liberty Global Logistics, Linde, MEGlobal, NYK RORO, Phillips 66, Riviana Foods, Inc., Sallaum Lines, Tenaris, U.S Department of Energy, Volkswagen Group of America, and Vulcan Materials Company.

Port Freeport is committed to keeping the local community informed of our operation and results. If you have questions or comments about this article, please email or call Amanda Veliz, Public Affairs Manager.

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PHOTO CUTLINE 1: Amanda Veliz, the Public Affairs Manager for Port Freeport, presents the first-place award to Everly Berry, a 6th-grade student at Our Lady Queen of Peace, winner of the 26th Annual Take-A-Child Fishing Tournament Logo Drawing Contest.



PHOTO CUTLINE 2: Rebekah Calhoun, an 8th-grade student from Our Lady Queen of Peace, was awarded second place during the presentation of the 26th Annual Take-A-Child Fishing Tournament Logo Drawing Contest.



PHOTO CUTLINE 3: Karmine Velez, an 8th-grade student at Lake Jackson Intermediate, receives third-place recognition from Port Freeport.



PHOTO CUTLINE 4: Staff of the Boys & Girls Club of Brazoria County are recognized by Port Freeport for submitting the most entries in the 26th Annual Take-A-Child Fishing Tournament Logo Drawing Contest.