

2026 Suffolk-Nansemond IWLA Teddy Bear Hunt

Date: Saturday, April 18th, 2026

10:00 - 12:00 Teddy Bear Hunt (Ages: 3-10)

11:30 - 1:00 Lunch

1:00 - 3:00 Afternoon Youth activities available to participants include walking trails, fishing, and archery.

Location: 480 Kings Fork Rd, Suffolk, VA 23434

Cost: \$15 per family (covers parents/guardians and 1 child), \$5.00 extra for each additional child). Lunch is included for all.

Limited spaces are available, so please RSVP no later than April 11th, 2026 to Chris_Trimpey@hotmail.com or 757-449-4910.

A fun-filled family day of nature brought to you by the Suffolk-Nansemond Chapter of the Izaak Walton League

Flyer revision 2026-03-1121

The Story of the Teddy Bear

Did you know that the Teddy Bear was invented in honor of President Theodore Roosevelt? It all began when Theodore Roosevelt was on a bear hunting trip near Onward, Mississippi on November 14, 1902. He had been invited by Mississippi Governor Andrew H. Longino, and unlike other hunters in the group, had not located a single bear.

Roosevelt's assistants, led by Holt Collier, a born slave and former Confederate cavalry-man, cornered and tied a black bear to a willow tree. They summoned Roosevelt and suggested that he shoot it. Viewing this as extremely unsportsmanlike, Roosevelt re-fused to shoot the bear. The news of this event spread quickly through newspaper articles across the country. The articles recounted the story of the president who refused to shoot a bear. However, it was not just any president, it was Theodore Roosevelt the big game hunter!



A replica of the original

Teddy Bear



Clifford Berryman's 1902 cartoon that lampooned T.R.'s bear hunt

A political cartoonist by the name of Clifford Berryman read the article and decided to lightheartedly lampoon the president's refusal to shoot the bear. Berryman's cartoon appeared in the Washington Post on November 16, 1902. A Brooklyn candy shop owner by the name of Morris Michtom saw the cartoon and had an idea. He and his wife Rose were also makers of stuffed animals, and Michtom decided to create a stuffed toy bear and dedicate it to the president who refused to shoot a bear. He called it 'Teddy's Bear'.

After receiving Roosevelt's permission to use his name, Michtom mass produced the toy bears which were so popular that he soon founded the Ideal Toy Company. To this day the Teddy Bear has worldwide popularity and its origin can be traced back to Theodore's fate-full hunting trip in 1902.

<http://www.nps.gov/thrb/historyculture/storyofteddybear.htm>