



# Blue Marsh Lake Program Schedule



## January 2018

Date and Time	Event	Meeting Location
Monday, Jan. 1 10:00 AM	First Day Guided Hike	Church Road Access
Saturday, Jan. 6 10:30 AM	Cold Water Safety Program	Conference Center
Saturday, Jan. 20 9:00 AM	Volunteer Work Day	Visitor Center
Saturday, Jan. 20 10:00 AM	Tower Tour	Visitor Center
Sunday, Jan. 21 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM	Cross-Country Skiing for Beginners	Conference Center
Saturday, Jan. 27 10:00 AM	Guided Hike Old Roads and Main Trail	Justa Road Access

## February 2018

Date and Time	Event	Meeting Location
Saturday, Feb. 3 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM	Winter Nature Photography	Conference Center
Sunday, Feb. 11 2:00 PM	Cold Water Safety Program	Conference Center
Saturday, Feb. 17 9:00 AM	Volunteer Work Day	Visitor Center
Saturday, Feb. 17 10:00 AM	Tower Tour	Visitor Center
Saturday, Feb. 24 10:00 AM	Guided Hike Foxtrot and Lakeside Exploration	Dry Brooks Boat Launch

## March 2018

Date and Time	Event	Meeting Location
Saturday, Mar. 10 10:30 AM	Cold Water Safety Program	Conference Center
Saturday, Mar. 17 9:00 AM	Volunteer Work Day	Visitor Center
Saturday, Mar. 24 10:00 AM	Tower Tour	Visitor Center
Saturday, Mar. 31 10:00 AM	Geocache Hike Water Road Loop	Visitor Center

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,  
Philadelphia District



@bluemarshlake

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

**Control Tower Tours:** Saturdays, January 20, February 17, and March 24 @ 10:00 AM, meet at the Visitor Center Parking Lot.

Participants get a “behind-the-scenes” look at how the dam functions. Not only will you be out on the dam, but you will also be going inside the control tower. Be prepared to go down and up numerous steps. For those of you who cannot handle the steps you can go as far as the control room (about 20 steps).

**Volunteer Work Days:** Saturdays, January 20, February 17, and March 17 @ 9:00 AM, meet at the Visitor Center Parking Lot.

Join other volunteers to help clean up Blue Marsh Lake and complete volunteer projects! Tools, gloves, trash bags will be provided. You will meet at the Visitor Center and then be directed to your project or area of clean up. Pre-register by calling 610-376-6337 or by emailing David.W.Bible@usace.army.mil.

**Cold Water Safety Programs:** Saturdays, January 6 and March 10 @ 10:30 AM, Sunday, February 11 @ 2:00 PM, park in the Visitor Center Lot and meet in the Conference Center.

Do you know what happens to your body during cold water conditions? Join the Park Rangers for a fun and informative program about cold water safety! Learn how to be safe while recreating during cold water season and what to do if you find yourself accidentally in the water during it. All age groups are welcome!

Note that this is not a certification course for cold water rescue but an educational resource on cold water threats and what you can be doing to stay safe while recreating during cold weather and water conditions. The program will last about 1 to 1.5 hours.

**First Day Hike:** Monday, January 1 @ 10:00 AM, meet at the Church Road Access Area.

Did you set some health goals for your New Year’s Resolution, or do you want to enjoy nature more? Start the New Year off right with a guided First Day Hike at Blue Marsh Lake. Join volunteer, Ron Waszk, hiking along the main trail following the lake around inlets and streams that offer the view of a small waterfall. Then loop back around open fields perfect for wildlife and bird viewing on the horse bypass trail. The hike will be an easy to moderate 3 miles.

**Old Roads and Main Trail Guided Hike:** Saturday, January 27 @ 10:00 AM, meet at the Justa Road Access Area.

Break out of the house and embrace the winter weather by joining volunteer, Ron Waszk for a guided hike through the old paved roadways throughout the Pennsylvania State Gamelands and Blue Marsh property! There is a great variety of habitats in this area that should result in some great bird and wildlife sightings! Don’t forget your binoculars. The hike path is group’s choice between different loop variations in the area. Opt for an easy to moderate hike of just over 3.75 mile hike, or a more challenging 5 mile hike!

**Foxtrot and Lakeside Exploration Guided Hike:** Saturday, February 24 @ 10:00 AM, meet at Dry Brooks Boat Ramp.

Get up and get out! The lake is still down and is perfect for exploration! Join us for a hike along the lake edge and then back up onto the main trail to explore the area around the Dry Brooks Day Use Area. The hike will be an easy to moderate 2.5-3 miles.

**Geocache Guided Hike:** Saturday, March 31 @ 10:00 AM, meet at the Visitor Center Parking Lot.

Learn about Geocaching while hiking with volunteer, Ron Waszk! Start off with a brief introduction about what geocaching is and how it works then head out on the trail to apply your new skills! Our trek will take us over across the top of the dam along the trail to the Spillway. We will then follow the trail to a portion of Water Road and follow the Tulpehocken Creek back to the Stilling Basin. The hike distance will be easy to moderate and approximately 3.5 miles.

**Cross Country Skiing for Beginners:** Sunday, January 21 @ 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM, park in the Visitor Center Lot and meet in the Conference Center

The Berks County Parks and Recreation Department will be hosting a beginners cross country skiing program. If you're looking for a way to stay fit in the winter months, join us to learn all about Cross-Country Skiing. Not only is kicking and gliding on two skis an incredible aerobic challenge that works your running muscles, but it also builds your arm, back and core strength. Learn about the equipment involved, with demonstrations on techniques. Program followed by some practice or a hike if the conditions are not right for skiing. Pre-register by calling 610-374-2944 ext. 2611.

**Winter Nature Photography:** Saturday, February 3 @ 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM, park in the Visitor Center Lot and meet in the Conference Center

The Berks County Parks and Recreation Department will be hosting a winter nature photography program. Bring your DSLR or film camera and learn tips on how to shoot great winter-time photos outdoors. The program will start with a brief slide presentation; then professional photographer & instructor, Valerie Hoffman will lead us on an exploratory walk around the grounds of the park capturing great moments in nature. This is a free program for all ages and Cocoa and warm treats will be available. Please remember to dress appropriately for the weather. Pre-register by calling 610-374-2944 ext. 2611.