

Mason Neck

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**April 30
Sunday**



Welcome to Mason Neck - an orienteering venue quite different from most! Unlike typical QOC terrains, Mason Neck has few hills and the map has 5 foot (not 5 meter) contours. The steeper areas are along reentrants leading down to marshes and the tidal water. For the most part, runners will be pleasantly surprised as this park has predominantly open, runnable woods and is generally flat with subtle contour features. There are large areas lacking trails. This can present a real challenge as runners may need to rely on their compass and pace count; for additional tips, make sure to see the course setter notes below. Full course details - including for the "combined" (white + yellow together) beginner course - and course setter notes are now posted below. Event registration will be from 10:45am - 1:15pm. Start your course anytime between 11am - 1:30pm, but be back before the courses close at 3pm. There is an entrance fee for the park (\$5 (in state) or \$7 (out-of-state) per car).

REMINDER: Use the cups we provide at each water stop. **DO NOT CHUG** directly from the water containers. We encourage event directors to void the results of anyone violating this policy. Every orienteer can take the extra few seconds to use the cups.

Park Information:

[Mason Neck State Park](#) [2] is also a great place for exploration on the water or by bike (a very smooth and family-friendly bike path runs through much of the park). Of note:

- There's a fine playground quite near our registration area.
- Dogs are welcome in the park, but must be on a leash of length 6 feet or less at all times and "with a human on the other end", as a park ranger said.
- April through October: kayaks and canoes may be rented for an hour or all day to explore Belmont



Bay and Kane's Creek. It's a great way to see eagles; details are on the park website.

- Nature Programs for Kids & Families: There are 4 programs (at 10am, 2pm, 3pm, and 5pm) this Sunday at Mason Neck that you might enjoy; details [here](#) [3].

Any youth or large groups attending, please contact the [Event Director](#) [4] so that we can coordinate pre-registration for your group; the group registration and waiver [form](#) [5] is part of the information on our [Group Leaders](#) [6] page.

Location	Mason Neck SP, Mason Neck SP, Lorton, VA (Classic)
Registration	No advance registration required. Just show up and have fun!
Start Times	You may start your course at any time during the start window listed below for your event.
Schedule	Sunday, April 30 11:00 Classic: am - 3:00 pm
Volunteers	Event John Baker [7] Director: Course Sidney Sachs [8] Designer:
Location Details	