

January 2025

Patapsco Valley State Park Soldiers Delight NEA

Register [here](#) or by contacting us at 410-461-5005. patapsco.statepark@maryland.gov

Accommodations for individuals with disabilities will be provided upon request. Two weeks advance notice is requested.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Unless otherwise noted, events are held rain or shine, free and fun for all ages; donations are always welcome. Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult. Dress for the weather/activity, wear sunscreen and insect repellent, bring plenty of water and snacks, and remember to check for ticks.</p>			<p>1</p> <p>11- First Day Guided Hike</p> <p>1:30- Adaptive Hike</p> <p>4- First Day SUNSET Hike!</p>	2	3	4
<p>5</p> <p>9- SERP Restoration Volunteer Event</p>	6	7	8	9	10	11
<p>12</p> <p>1- Surviving Winter: A Reptile's Guide</p>	13	14	15	16	17	<p>18</p> <p>1- A Quest for Conifers</p> <p>6:30- Orion Battles Jupiter for Custody of the Twins!</p>
<p>19</p> <p>9- SERP Restoration Volunteer Event</p>	<p>20</p> <p>11- Indigenous Pottery</p>	21	22	23	24	25
<p>26</p> <p>11- The Patapsco Rock Challenge</p>	27	28	29	30	31	

Centers of SDNEA & PVSP Hours of Operation

Soldiers Delight NEA Visitor Center: Saturdays & Sundays, 11-3 p.m.

5100 Deer Park Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117

William Offutt Johnson History Center: Open by appointment.

William Offutt Johnson History Center: 5120 South Street, Halethorpe, MD 21227

Nature Center: Open by appointment.

Nature Center: 1101 Hilton Avenue, Catonsville, MD 21228

January 1: First Day Guided Hike

11-12:30 p.m. at McKeldin Area, Shelter 576

11676 Marriottsville Road, Marriottsville, MD 21104

Start off your New Year with Ranger Jamie and Maryland Conservation Corp Members on a 2.5 mile guided hike through the McKeldin Area! Bring your family and friends and kick off the year with a how!!!! Trail is rated easy/mildly intermediate and loaded with fun!!! [Sign up encouraged](#). Rain or shine.

January 1: Adaptive First Day Hike

1:30-3 p.m. at McKeldin Area, B-Parking Lot by the Basketball Courts

11676 Marriottsville Road, Marriottsville, MD 21104

Adaptive athletes, join us for the First Day Hike at McKeldin! We'll be offering a shorter paved path and a natural surface trail for you to choose from! [Sign up required](#). Shine only.

January 1: First Day SUNSET Hike!

4-6:30 p.m. at Avalon Area, Shelter 106

5120 South St, Halethorpe, MD 21227

Want to push yourself on a First Day Hike but don't want to wake up early on New Years Day? We've got you covered! Join park staff and volunteers for a sunset hike connecting the Sawmill Branch and Buzzards Rock trails for a ~3 mile loop, stopping at Ilchester Rocks to enjoy the sunset. Limited to 20 participants. [Sign up required](#). The program will be canceled in the event of inclement weather.

January 5 and 19: SERP Restoration Volunteer Event

9-2:30p.m. at Soldiers Delight NEA

5100 Deer Park Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117

The Maryland Natural Heritage Program is holding several Serpentine Ecosystem Restoration Project work days this winter at Soldiers Delight Natural Environment Area. Volunteers will assist by removing non-native Virginia pine and other invasive plants, allowing grasses to re-colonize the area. A variety of methods will be used, including hand pulling, chipping and use of hand tools. Bring a lunch, snacks, and plenty of water. Pack light, with layered clothing, a hat, sturdy shoes, and work gloves. Call 410-260-8568 after 7 p.m. the night before the event to check for inclement weather schedule changes. Space is limited, so registration is required! Email paula.becker@maryland.gov to register.

January 12: Surviving Winter: A Reptile's Guide

1-1:45 p.m. at the Soldiers Delight Visitor Center
5100 Deer Park Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117

Have you ever wondered how reptiles survive the winter? Join a park naturalist to learn about these animals' amazing cold-weather strategies and meet some of our Scales & Tales ambassador turtles and snakes! Limited to 20 participants. [Sign up encouraged](#). Rain or shine.

January 18: A Quest for Conifers

1-2:30 p.m. at McKeldin Area,
11676 Marriottsville Road, Marriottsville, MD 21104

The quest given to you takes you on a journey that is not so long and rather sticky! Join our naturalist as they guide you on a quest for conifers! Be prepared for a moderate walk with slight elevation changes and a somewhat rocky path as you journey on part of the Tall Poplar Trail, then finish walking on pavement. Limited to 20 participants. Shine only. [Signup encouraged](#).

January 18: Orion Battles Jupiter for Custody of the Twins!

6:30-8:30 p.m. at Soldiers Delight Visitor Center
5100 Deer Park Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117

Join us for an epic battle of the Titans as we start the New Year. See Jupiter the king of planets go toe to toe with Orion the King of Deep sky wonders in a battle to see who will get custody of the twins (Gemini), while Venus and Saturn watch nearby and Mars eggs them both on. Make a comet to see where meteor showers come from and one lucky person will win a genuine meteorite. All programs are rain or shine. Time machines (telescopes) are provided by the Westminster Astronomy Club. [Signup encouraged](#).

January 20: Indigenous Pottery: Piscataway & Susquehannock

11-12:30 p.m. at Avalon Area, William Offutt Johnson History Center
5120 South Street, Halethorpe, MD 21227

Join us at the William Offutt Johnson History Center to learn about the history of the Indigenous peoples of Maryland. We will discuss the historic and surviving cultures of the Piscataway and Susquehannock peoples before making our own pottery pieces inspired by traditional Indigenous works. [Signup required](#), limited to 10 participants. Rain or shine.

January 26: The Patapsco Rock Challenge

11-Noon at Avalon Area, William Offutt Johnson History Center
5120 South Street, Halethorpe, MD 21227

Think you know your rocks and minerals? Try out your skills in the Avalon Area, where we will discuss how the geology of Patapsco Valley came to be! Learn about different tests to identify rocks and then try your hand at identifying rock samples from all around the park! Limited to 15 participants, ages 5 and up. [Signup required](#). Rain or shine.