

Merli-Sarnoski Park

Fell Township, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania

SCALE
1:5,000

CONTOURS
5 meters

BEGINNER COURSE

0 meters 300

Orienteering
USA

Orienteering on this self-guided course allows you or your group to follow, at your leisure, a permanently marked route as an introduction to the sport. After completing this course, please try one of our local weekend events for a complete orienteering experience!



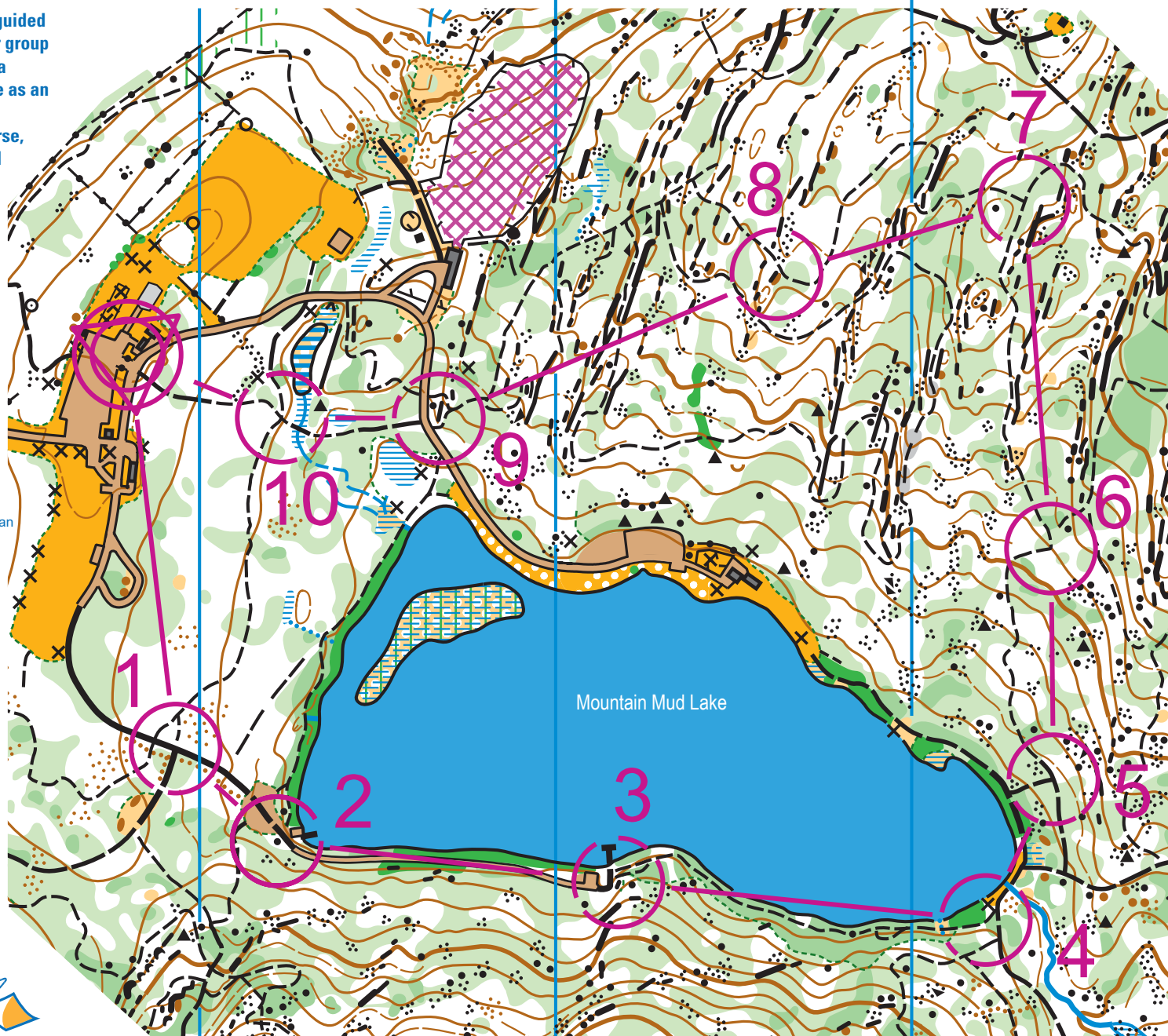
Blue meridian lines point to Magnetic North. No correction required for declination.

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Delaware Valley Orienteering Association



Map scale is accurate when printed on an 8 1/2" x 11" sheet size.

05/2025

Merli-Sarnoski Park

Fell Township, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania



Merli-Sarnoski Park									
Permanent Orienteering Course Control Sheet									
Beginner Course (Moderate)				2.5 km distance (1.6 miles)				60m climb (197 feet)	
Control # / Letter Code				Control Descriptions				Control Descriptions (Text)	
▷		S/F		▨			○	Parking Lot, Northeast Side	
1	31		↘	↗	↖	↙	○	Southeastern Road Path Junction, Southwest Side	
2	32			▲		0.5	○	Boulder, East Side 0.5 Meter Height	
3	33		↑	▬		2.0	○	Northern Cliff, North Foot 2.0 Meter Height	
4	34		↖	▩			Q	Northwestern Thicket Southeast Edge	
5	35			↗	↖	↙	○	Path Path Junction Northwest Side	
6	36			↗		<	○	Path Bend, Northeast Side	
7	37			↗	↖	↙	○	Path Path Junction Southwest Side	
8	38		→	▬		1.0	○	Eastern Cliff, Northeast Foot 1.0 Meter Height	
9	39		↘	▬		1.0	○	Southwestern Cliff, Southwest Foot, 1.0 Meter Height	
10	40			↗	↖	×	○	Path Path Crossing Northwest Side	
⊗				140m (459 feet) to Finish				⊗	

Note:

Merli-Sarnoski Park offers three different orienteering course maps to fit your skill level - Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced. All courses begin and end at the start/finish (S/F) control post shown on the map as a purple triangle and double circle.

Scouting America:

Scouts who need an orienteering course to complete First Class requirement 4a can use the Beginner Course. Scouts must also demonstrate measuring the height and/or width of designated features in the landscape to complete requirement 4a. Scouts who need a second course for the Orienteering Merit Badge should complete the Intermediate or Advanced course.

To check control letter codes, mail a copy of your noted course control sheet to: DVOA, 14 Lake Drive, Spring City, PA 19475.

Please include your phone, email, and mailing address for a reply.

After completing this course, please try one of our local weekend events for a complete orienteering experience!

MAP LEGEND

	paved road
	pavement, gravel
	dirt road
	vehicle trail
	large foot path
	small foot path
	indistinct path
	narrow ride
	stone wall
	ruined stone wall
	fence
	ruined fence
	uncrossable fence
	power line
	building
	ruin
	hunter's stand, misc. object
	cairn, rocky pit, tower
	boulder: small, large
	passable cliff
	impassable cliff
	boulder field, stony ground
	contours, form line
	gully, dry ditch
	small knoll, depression
	pit, broken ground
	earth bank
	earth wall
	ruined earth wall
	rootstock*, charcoal terrace*
	stream: wide, small
	small pond
	spring, waterhole, well
	lake, uncrossable river
	intermittent stream
	narrow marsh
	marsh, diffuse marsh
	open land, rough open
	open with scattered trees
	rough open with scattered trees
	vegetation: forest, slow run
	vegetation: walk, fight
	undergrowth: slow run, walk
	distinct vegetation boundary
	cultivated land, distinct tree
	park boundary, out of bounds
	* not an IOF symbol



Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Date Course Completed _____

Start Time: _____ End Time: _____



Delaware Valley Orienteering Association

14 Lake Drive, Spring City, PA 19475
frankdvoa@aol.com, 610.792.0502
www.dvoa.org

ORIENTEERING - What is it?

Orienteering is a sport of Scandinavian origin. The game's objective is to locate fairly easy-to-find markers in the woods with the aid of a map and, if you like, a compass. The challenge of orienteering results from participants' not knowing ahead of time the markers' locations. The test lies in determining the best routes between these locations and, in the sport's competitive form, in finding all these points (called controls) in the least possible time. At its best, not only does orienteering improve your knowledge of geography and practical navigation, it enhances physical and mental fitness as well.

Orienteering is a sport for people and families of all ages, abilities, and gender. Participants can travel alone or in groups, running or strolling, to win the contest or merely to savor nature's beauty, which, as any orienteerer will attest, is winning itself.



INFORMATION

Merli-Sarnoski Park, dedicated in 1978, is named after Lackawanna County Congressional Medal of Honor recipients Gino Merli and Joseph Sarnoski. The 840-acre park features lake swimming, fishing and sports facilities but is also known for its wide expanse of untouched natural beauty.

For information about park activities, contact:

Lackawanna Parks & Recreation, McDade Park Office, 1 Bald Mountain Road, Scranton, PA 18504 570.963.6764; or visit the park website at www.lackawannacounty.org/government/departments/parks_and_recreation/merli-sarnoski_park

For information about local orienteering events, other area permanent courses, and club membership in eastern Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey, and Delaware, or for copies of this and other orienteering maps, please contact:

Delaware Valley Orienteering Association (DVOA), 14 Lake Drive, Spring City, PA 19475, 610.792.0502, frankdvoa@aol.com, or visit our web site at www.dvoa.org.

For a complete orienteering experience, please try one of our local weekend events. You can find the schedule at www.dvoa.org. Membership entitles you to reduced map fees at all of our events.

Congratulations and thank you for participating!

INSTRUCTIONS

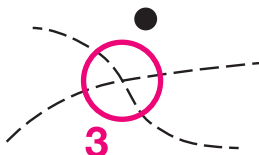
1. Reference the course control sheet for course distance and total course climb. The course begins near the main Pavilion, indicated on the map with a triangle symbol. The course ends at the start location, indicated on the map with a double circle symbol.

2. Familiarize yourself with the map before you begin.

NOTE: Familiarization with the map relative to the fields, roads, and features shown is easier if you hold the map flat in front of you and rotate it until it is "oriented" to the terrain. Magnetic North lines will help if you have a compass, but you will find that the map is detailed enough that you may not need one on this course.

3. Set out to visit the controls in the sequence outlined on the map starting at the start triangle and proceeding towards control #1. Upon reaching each control, record, on the course control sheet provided, the letter code shown on the marker post placard (see illustrations to the right). You may also want to time yourself from start to finish.

As an example, consider an imaginary control #3, marked on the map as shown below:



Referring to the map legend, you note that the control location, the point at the center of the circle, seems to be crossing between two paths. To confirm the terrain feature on which the control is located, look at the description and feature symbols provided on the sample control sheet shown below.

Permanent Orienteering Course Control Sheet					
Short Course		2.2 km distance (1.4 miles)		27m climb (90 feet)	
Control # / Letter Code		Control Descriptions		Control Descriptions (Text)	
▷		■		Start Triangle Building (Park Office)	
1		/ / \		Road Junction	
2		▲		1.7	Boulder, 1.7m Height, North Side
3		/ \ X		Trail Crossing	

Suppose, after a fairly challenging and satisfying amount of navigation, you finally arrive at the vicinity of control #3. To your delight, you sight it precisely where it should be: at the foot path trail junction.



Take a closer look; you will notice the control number and letter code on the marker post placard.



By recording the letter code in the appropriate box on the control sheet, you provide proof of your visit to the control for later verification.

2	A		▲	
3	H		/ \	/ \

That's it! You're off to your next control, and so on to the finish.



SAFETY NOTES

At a moderate pace, the Beginner course at Merli-Sarnoski Park can ordinarily be completed within 45-60 minutes. It is wise to take this into consideration, especially when setting off towards dusk.

On the remote chance you become hopelessly disoriented, make your way down to the lake and follow the lake shore trail around to the access road. Remember that the sun rises in the east and sets in the west.

Some areas of the park may be hazardous. We told the Park Rangers we would remind you that you are responsible for you and your groups' safety.