

ST. PATTY'S DAY MARSH MADNESS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: DATE OF THE EVENT?

ANSWER: The event will be held on **Saturday, March, 16, 2019** with registration beginning at 10:00 am. The plungers will enter Blue Marsh Lake at approximately 11:00 am. Award ceremony immediately following plunge at the Sinking Spring Family YMCA.

Q: IS PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED?

ANSWER: Pre-Registration is greatly encouraged. You should visit www.firstgiving.com search "2019 St. Patty's Marsh Madness" to register online. You can also visit our Marsh Madness Facebook page and/or www.ymca-berkscounty.org/2018/11/01/marshmaddness/. Registration is free however, we encourage everyone raise funds to support kids! If you register on the day of the event, please plan to attend early as a line does form.



Q: WHAT ARE THE PRIZES?

ANSWER: If you raise \$50 you will receive an event t-shirt and if you raise \$160 you will receive an event beach towel (while supplies last). There are also prizes awarded for the best costumes.

Q: CAN TEAMS PARTICIPATE?

ANSWER: Athletic teams, church groups, businesses and social organizations are greatly encouraged to participate. There are special awards given to the group who raises the most money and has the highest turn out of members. In addition, community service hours will be awarded if requested by participating school.

50/50 non-profit Challenge—DONATION BACK: We will also be sharing the amount raised by any team if they are a non-profit agency. Simply register your non-profit agency with mreinert@ymca-berkscounty.org and bring 5 or more plungers. Any non-profit group will receive 50% of the total they raised above \$500. If your team raises \$1000, then the YMCA will donate \$500 back to your tax-exempt organization. The more you raise for the YMCA - the more you raise for your non-profit organization.

Q: WHAT HAPPENS IF IT RAINS OR SNOWS?

ANSWER: The event is held rain or shine. In past years, we have held the event with snow on the ground!

Q: WHAT SHOULD I WEAR?

ANSWER: Bathing suits, clothes and costumes are welcome. Awards are given out for the most original, as well as the best team costume. Many of the plungers wear crazy costumes with a St. Patrick's Day theme. ***Wet suits are not permitted.***

Q: WHAT SHOULD I BRING?

ANSWER: You should bring a change of clothes, a towel, and water shoes or old sneakers. You are permitted to wear shoes in the water.

Q: ARE THERE CHANGING FACILITIES?

ANSWER: Yes. The YMCA and volunteer fire departments will provide heated changing tents for Men and Women. There are several port-a-potties located in the parking lot. There are shower facilities available at the Sinking Spring YMCA where the post-plunge party will be held.

Q: WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE EVENT?

ANSWER: After the plunge a post-event celebration party will be held at the Sinking Spring Family YMCA located at 4920 Penn Avenue, Sinking Spring. The event will offer free food and drinks for all participants and spectators. The awards will be given out at approximately 12:00 pm.

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Q: HOW FAR MUST I GO IN THE WATER?

ANSWER: It is totally up to the participant as to how far they go in the water. Many of our plungers only go ankle deep, although some of our plungers go completely underwater. There is no requirement that you must go underwater. The lake is gradually sloped so it is up to the plunger how far out into the lake they proceed.

Q: WHERE CAN I PUT MY THINGS WHEN I PLUNGE?

ANSWER: Bring a bag to put your belongings in to keep near the beach or keep your personal belongings in your car.

**** The YMCA is not responsible for lost or missing items. ****

Q: ARE THERE OTHER ACTIVITIES BEFORE THE PLUNGE?

ANSWER: Yes, there is a DJ and bagpiper entertaining before the plunge and lots of exciting costumes to admire. Free coffee and hot chocolate are available, breakfast sandwiches are made to order for a small fee. There is also a raffle, full of amazing items, run by the Reading Y Swim Team. * **Cash only for breakfast items and raffle tickets.***

Q: WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

ANSWER: All of the money raised through either sponsorship and/or donations go to fund financial assistance programs for those children and youth who are unable to afford either membership fees and/or fees for athletic programs or summer day camp programs. The money raised will support your local branch of the YMCA of Reading and Berks County. Dollars raised for your branch will support your branch's financial assistance programs.

- \$18 = one month FREE YMCA Membership to a 7th grader participating in our 7th Grade Initiative.
- \$85 = covers the cost for a child to participate in our youth basketball programs.
- \$100 = covers the cost of providing child "safety equipment" such as child gates and electrical protectors for one of the participants in Baby University.
- \$250 = covers the cost of the Y Summer Camp for one child.

Q: IS THERE A MINIMUM AGE?

ANSWER: No! Our youngest plunger was 8 months old. And our oldest plunger was 72!

Q: WHAT IF THE LAKE IS FROZEN?

ANSWER: Through the cooperation of the Army Corps of Engineers, the Blue Marsh Rangers, the Reading Scuba Team and other fire officials, the lake will not be frozen and there will be sufficient space for all plungers to participate.

Q: IF I HAVE QUESTIONS, WHO DO I CALL?

ANSWER: All questions should be addressed to Michele Reinert at the YMCA of Reading and Berks County. 610-378-4714 or mreinert@ymca-berkscounty.org

Q: SO WHAT'S IT LIKE?

ANSWER: one year we had 13 inches of ice to cut through. Nevertheless we had approximately 200 plungers, and hundreds more came out to watch the event and cheer on the plungers. Join us for a fun and exciting day at the (frozen) beach.



YMCA OF READING & BERKS COUNTY
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www.ymca-berkscounty.org/2018/11/01/marshmadness/