

Holiday Tips and Gift Ideas

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Ask any kid what he or she wants for Christmas these days, and chances are good that the answer will be, “a new phone.” Ask adults, and they may say, “a kayak.”

If you plan to buy someone (or yourself) the latest smartphone or a new boat as a gift this holiday season, check out John Allen’s article entitled “Smartphone Fishing” on page 24 of this issue of *Pennsylvania Angler & Boater*. In the article, he explains some of the features that have made the free FishBoatPA app so popular among Pennsylvanians and visitors to the Commonwealth and why it can be “the most powerful tool in your tackle box.”

Since we launched the app in 2015, more and more people have taken advantage of this incredible platform to learn about and connect with fishing and boating opportunities across Pennsylvania.

In the inevitable rush to download apps onto a phone, the FishBoatPA app should be the first one for any angler or boater to add to his or her device. After that special person on your list opens the new phone or takes a seat in the new kayak, download FishBoatPA to get started on planning an outdoor adventure. Whether it is a trip to a cold weather hotspot or a search for a place to visit when the temperature

warms, the app has all sorts of information to easily plan time together on the water.

Among the things you can find on the app are directions to boating access facilities near you or wherever your travels take you in Pennsylvania. To make sure the new kayak can take advantage of as many sites as possible, purchase a \$12 launch permit (or \$22 for two years) that will enable the boater to use the hundreds of access areas maintained and operated by the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources at rivers, lakes and state parks throughout the Commonwealth.

If you are looking for another great gift for someone under 16, consider adding a Voluntary Youth Fishing License to the holiday cheer. In 2019, we surpassed a record-breaking 9,000 Voluntary Youth Fishing Licenses and issued over 25,000 Mentored Youth Permits. This was more than a 20 percent jump from the previous year, allowing more children than ever to participate in the popular Mentored Youth Trout Days held a week before the regional and statewide trout openers.

For those on your list who are 16 or older, an annual, three-, five-, or ten-year fishing license or gift voucher will equip anglers with the limitless possibilities of fun on the water and give you the gift of companionship on your favorite creek, river, pond or lake.

Equipped with the app and a license to fish, you can either hit the water (or safe ice) immediately or spend the rest of the holiday season planning your next outdoor adventure.

And, please, make sure all of the boaters you know understand the importance of having a proper-fitting life jacket. Remind them that wearing a life jacket is mandatory from November 1 until April 30.

With FishBoatPA at your fingertips, the person who was lucky enough to be on the receiving end of your generosity will head into the new year ready to make the most of all that Pennsylvania’s waters have to offer.



Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission

Reel in the Memories!

Download the **FREE** FishBoatPA app



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www.fishandboat.com/mobile.htm