

Delaware Valley Orienteering Association's

5th Annual NJROTC Area 4 Orienteering Championship 2018

Saturday, October 27th

Tyler State Park – Newtown PA

Upper Plantation Picnic Grove

NEW and IMPROVED STAGING AREA Having found a home for our Area 4 Naval JROTC Championship at Tyler the past two years, we have this year upgraded our Staging Area to the spacious and accommodating Upper Plantation Picnic Grove just inside the major park entrance (first picnic grove after turning right). It features a pavilion for Registration and Download, nearby facilities that we will augment with a port-o-john, ample surrounding areas for all units to choose a home base, with nearby parking for buses. It resolves so many of the logistical inconveniences we've faced the past two years. And by changing the original October 20th date to the following Saturday October 27th, we have found a great solution to the problems created by having to avoid the annual Disc Golf Championship Course that seriously limited courses the last two years.

Please check the DVOA website periodically for possible updates about this event – www.dvoa.org

EVENT OBJECTIVES FOR EVERYONE TO READ BEFORE CONTINUING ON

JROTC Championships usually limit roster sizes. But our intention is to provide an event that ALL your cadets can enjoy competing in while gaining valuable orienteering experience. The more the merrier. So we have purposely held the cost of entry fees for this event low enough that none of your cadets need be left out.

It also means that we really trust that our guidelines are taken to heart by everyone about not gaming the system. This event should be very competitive for the top cadet orienteers while remaining equally fun for EVERYONE at every level of skill and experience.

So, for example, we ask (on the honor system) that you keep your cadets on the courses they usually run and to be sure that cadets compete without interference from any unfair advantage. If violations of this spirit are brought to staff's attention, we WILL take action. Please have your cadets abide by traditional orienteering etiquette and behavior.....so that we all thoroughly enjoy the day.

This Registration Packet is organized into groups of topics to make the information easy to follow and to navigate to whatever is most important to each unit.

Registration Guidelines

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General Information and Additional Event Guidelines

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Feel Free to Hand Out to Cadets the Attachment on Basic Orienteering Skills – Staying “On the Map”

EVENT GUIDELINES

- ___ **WE GO RAIN OR SHINE!** The maps are protected in plastic bags – everyone dress for the weather.
- ___ **Participant Equipment:** Each team should have at least one compass and whistle. *Can be rented.*
- ___ **Pre-registration is required in order to be eligible for championship competition.**
You will find additional information about registration details in the following pages and the Entry Form.
- ___ **The following groups are eligible to participate:** Area 4 Championship: Naval JROTC Cadets.
General public (including non-registered cadets) are welcomed, though not as Chmpshp participants.
- ___ **Registration is first-come first-served.** Our event permit caps the number of participants.
- ___ **Introductory Instruction** will be available throughout the morning, starting at least by 9:30am.
So regardless of prior experience, all cadets can successfully compete in the competition.
*Please read the section about pre-event instruction – **HIGHLY ENCOURAGED.***
- ___ **Electronic Equipment** DVOA uses electronic scoring for the competition. As part of the registration fee, each competing team or individual will be provided with an “e-punch.” This “fingerstick” is inserted into an electronic box at Registration, Start, at each Control and at Finish. All the e-punches and boxes (plus the computer equipment) represent a substantial investment made by DVOA. So any team or individual who loses their finger stick will be charged a \$45 replacement fee. So please don’t lose it – they come with an elastic band to keep it on your finger.
- ___ **JROTC leaders are responsible for obtaining their own school tour permits and insurance.**
- ___ **Port-O-John** We will be renting a port-o-potty so that our numbers do not overwhelm the facility septic system. If you don’t have to sit down, we request that you do your business using the port-o-john.
Please make sure your cadets know to use that facility whenever possible.
- ___ **Courses for Cadets** There will be courses at six distinct, progressively more challenging levels of difficulty – White, Yellow Short, Yellow Long, Intermediate Orange, and Advanced Brown and Green – so every cadet can take on a challenge suited to their skill and experience.
- ___ **Courses for Only Qualified Cadets** Only cadets with sufficient experience should attempt the Intermediate Orange, and especially the Advanced Brown and Green. *This event is NOT the time to move up a level unless both leader and cadet are certain that they are ready.*

WHICH COURSE TO RUN?

Ideally all cadets should compete with others who have the same level of orienteering experience and skill. Otherwise it can be embarrassing and/or frustrating for all participants. If in doubt as to what course is the best for each cadet, please follow the guidelines below (or contact the event director or course setter).

WHITE Beginner Cadets – For any Cadet who has little to no experience running a course. Cadets may compete in pairs or individually.

YELLOW SHORT Less Experienced Cadets – Any Cadet competing on Yellow Short should have prior experience successfully navigating a White course. Cadets may compete in pairs or individually.

YELLOW LONG Experienced Cadets – For Cadets with obvious experience but not yet confident or skilled in cross country navigation. Cadets can compete in pairs or individually.

ORANGE Experienced Orienteers ONLY - See the Guidelines below.

Units not experienced in having their cadets run individually may choose to have them run in pairs. But Orange and above, assume that participants run individually. *Do not choose this course for cadets who simply don’t have the prerequisite skills AND prior experience to handle Orange navigation. This is not the event to move someone up to Orange who has never run Orange.*

Note to All Units – When Is It Time to Move Cadets Up a Level?

Completing one or two courses at a specific level is not reason for a cadet to move up to the next level next time around. Only when they **successfully complete** a course, clearly showing a level of mastery, should they consider moving to the next course level. Taking 2:20 to finish the White course shows that they are NOT ready for Yellow. The best rule of thumb is that when the level of the course they run feels easy – **AND their time demonstrates that**– only then are they ready.

Moving from Yellow to Orange is the largest leap between any other orienteering levels. While Orange generally uses features easier to recognize and find than advanced courses, Orange **DOES** require (or at least strongly rewards) cross terrain (off trail) navigation as well as navigation through complicated linear features. The course setter will not be designing Orange as simply a long Yellow course.

So just because a cadet has completed two Yellow courses does NOT mean they are ready for Orange. Only when they are clearly ready for more challenging navigation on their courses are they ready.

Moving from Orange to Brown Don't let the distance fool you or your cadets – the shorter Brown does NOT mean "easier." Brown truly requires advanced skills. If your cadet is not ready to locate advanced control features, flag placement, and true cross-country navigation, the "shorter" Brown course will end up taking MUCH longer (and be far more frustrating) than the Orange course.

Teams in Pairs vs. Running Individually We will allow you to keep cadets in pairs if that is all that they know. But in national competitions, all cadets run individually. That's what any orienteering training should prepare them for. From years of experience we have found that running a course by committee is far less efficient than a trained individual orienteer. Performance relies upon quick decisive choices. Talking about what to do next only helps a team's time when no one else on the course knows what they're doing either.

The following courses are open ONLY to sufficiently experienced advanced orienteers:

BROWN – Short Advanced Less Experienced Advanced Cadets

Advanced orienteers typically run alone on their courses. For Units who **never** have Cadets run a course individually, pairs will be permitted. But do understand that Advanced Courses routinely assume (and usually require) that cadets run individually.

GREEN – Long Advanced Experienced Advanced Cadets ONLY To be run individually

PRE-COURSE INSTRUCTION !!!!! ALL GROUP LEADERS, PLEASE READ THIS.

In recent years, it has become abundantly clear that many Cadets and Unit Leaders have a mistaken idea of when cadets are ready to move up a level. Upon our staff asking cadets at Start in recent years (even ones on the Yellow Long course), they often don't know that Start is located at the triangle, or how to orient the map, or even in what direction their first control is!!! – pretty basic stuff. So we strongly encourage you to recommend (even require) your cadets to attend basic instruction – available throughout the morning from veteran DVOA orienteers – BEFORE they run their course. Many cadets who have run a White course in 2 to 3 hours think they are fully qualified to run the next course level. They are not.

Unfortunately, Orienteering was introduced to America by a compass company who taught compass and pace count games to youth groups all over the country – and then called that "Orienteering." But Orienteering is NOT captured with compass bearings and pace count. Nor is Orienteering simply running around looking for flags. Successful Orienteering requires that you learn how to read the map accurately and navigate it effectively – "Staying on the Map" means always knowing exactly where you are and where you are going next. Good orienteers make 5 minute mistakes, very good orienteers make 1 minute mistakes. Elite orienteers course correct in 5-10 seconds. Wandering around lost for 35 minutes on a short leg on any course just doesn't cut it, especially when on the simpler beginner courses.

Help your group have the most successful experience (and results) possible. Strongly encourage them to learn as much as possible BEFORE they go out on a course. The most successful JROTC units in the area are the ones who provide repeated training and frequently attend O-events. They are not the most accomplished units by accident. The more your scouts and cadets understand about map reading and navigation, route choice, and "relocating" themselves back to a feature on the map they can be sure of, the better they will do on their course, and the more fun they will have.

In this spirit, feel free to hand out attached article on Basics of Orienteering – Staying "On the Map"

PRE-REGISTRATION PROCESS

Rosters, Fees, Payment

All Registrations and Fees Must Be Sent Directly to the Registrar.

DVOA Staff Is the Sole Clearing House for All Roster Details.

In order to make the event as much fun as possible for all of us, we do our best to streamline the day-of event process to avoid long waiting lines at Registration. We are a volunteer staff with limited time to deal with all the details. The sooner you get us information, the easier it is for us to enter that information into our spreadsheets and computer, organize the day, and prepare check-in packets for every unit.

LATE ENTRIES will be charged a late fee – postmarked later than Friday Oct 19th, emailed later than Monday Oct 22nd. Late fee is \$2 per cadet. DVOA allows you to change details according to which cadets show up. Day-of changes will not be penalized, BUT please keep any changes to a minimum. In the case of special circumstances, late fees *may* be waived at the discretion of the Event Director and Registrars.

Refunds Because the courses are preprinted on your maps, as well as a variety of extra expenses for an event this large, we do not refund any registrations except in exceptional circumstances.

AS A COURTESY, as soon as you decide to attend, please let us know via email that you will be attending along with projected numbers on each course. It helps us immeasurably to have a some idea of numbers **BEGORE** the deadline – **especially in estimating how many maps of each course we'll need to print!**

NOTE – Then send us your Registration forms and information as early as possible, and payment by the deadline. Please help us make this event enjoyable and work smoothly at every step of the competition.

Entry Form Logistics (please refer to the Entry Form attachment)

Start Times Assigned

While you can ask for a desired starting time window for your unit, we generally fill start slots earliest to latest as received. So requests for early start times from late arriving Entries will most likely not be available. All scheduling decisions made by the DVOA Registrars will be final.

Team Composition

Regardless of your Entry information, you are allowed to make **minor** changes in the exact make-up of the teams on event day. When the unit leader checks in, we will provide a team form to list all teams and individuals. Complete the form with the names of each team's members or individuals, and then return the completed form to the registration table.

Each unit may have **one** three-person team on any one course in order to allow for odd numbers.

Please refer to the Entry Form for Further Information.

Questions? – Contact Event Director: Mary Frank – (610) 792-0502 – frankdvoa@aol.com
or Asst. ED and Course Setter: Bob Burg – (856) 258-2859 – bburg@comcast.net

TO REGISTER

Preferred Method Email your Entry Form

Deadline is midnight Monday, Oct 22nd

Snail Mail

Deadline is postmarked by Friday, October 19th.

All Payments Must Be Mailed

Deadline is postmarked by Friday, October 19th.

EMAIL the enclosed Entry Form *directly* to BOTH of our Registrars:

Jerry Smith Registrar <rainsburgpa@gmail.com>

Compiles Rosters, Schedules Start Times, Creates Day-Of Packets

Robert Hesketh Registrar <rphesketh@yahoo.com>

Enters Info into Computer, Assigns eChips, and Creates ePackets, and Manages Computer Day-Of.

Snail Mail including All Checks to: Jerry Smith, 2716 Westwind Lane, York, PA 17404

You are not officially completely registered until we receive your payment.

Guidelines About Good Sportsmanship and Orienteering Etiquette

This is intended to be a friendly competition Area 4 Championship. Please let's keep it that way.

- **Behavior** DVOA is responsible for providing good courses, accurate maps, clear instructions and organization of the event. Unit leaders are responsible for proper supervision and discipline of their cadets. Cadets must not remove any of the controls or event equipment. **Removal of meet equipment is unfair to other units and will result in disqualification of the entire unit.**
- **Electronic Communications** In the past, there have been occasional problems with groups using electronic communications on their courses. Except in emergencies, participants using cell phones or hiker radios is forbidden. **If anyone is seen using such equipment to coach a team through a course, the event director will disqualify all teams from that unit for awards consideration.**
- **Course Behavior** Even well-intended assistance to teams that are confused and trying to figure out where they (or their next control flag) are, is considered making the competition unfair to other teams who might never receive such help. Let everyone have the same chance. Besides, getting lost and relocating where you are is part of the fun. 😊

For the same reason, it is considered only fair to not linger at a flag which gives away its location to other teams in the area. E-punch at the flag and move away from that location *before* you study your map. Or better yet, know which way you need to go towards your next control BEFORE punching the control box at the flag, and immediately leave in that direction. You can always stop during that leg to make sure you *are* on target. *Please Do Not Linger at a Flag.*
- It is considered **distracting to talk to other teams**. Please keep even friendly exchanges with other teams to a minimum.

Awards Presentation

Using DVOA's electronic system, we can get team, individual, and unit results soon after all cadets complete their courses. So following the presentation of awards that the JROTC Co-ordinators annually announce, we invite your units to stay for the official Area 4 Championship Results with trophies and medals provided by DVOA.

Individual Medals for top 3 finishers on each of the 6 courses – **Trophies** for the top 3 units .

Event Logistics

Parking There will be signs directing you to the staging area – some are simple orange and white arrows similar to an orienteering flag, others are larger. Registration, Start, and Finish will all be in our Staging Area. In addition to these arrows, once inside the main entrance you can park in available slots. Buses should drop off their team and equipment, then drive to nearby parking which we will direct the drivers to.

Start times will be assigned as we receive entry registrations – first come, first served. Whatever we can do to speed up the process, we will. Pre-Course Instruction will begin around 9:00am. If everything is ready to go **before** the official 10am Start time, we will start sending out teams on their courses, continuing until approx Noon. But don't count on Starts occurring any earlier than 10am,

Port-o-Potties – A large group such as ours may easily outstrip the park septic system's capacity. So please tell your cadets to use the port-o-potties *whenever they don't need to sit down*.

Courses Close at 3pm – Courses will be considered closed and flags will be picked up starting at 3pm.