

Delaware Valley Orienteering Association's

21st Annual NJ Scout Orienteering Championship 2017
4th Annual NJROTC Area 4 Orienteering Championship 2017

Saturday, October 21st

Tyler State Park – Newtown PA

Welcome to DVOA's Annual NJ Scout and NJROTC Area 4 Championships.

IMPORTANT NOTE Since we found our last minute change last year to Tyler State Park so well received, Tyler administration to be far more welcoming and less restrictive, we are again staging this event at Tyler State Park in Newtown PA, just across the Delaware River from our traditional Washington Crossing venue in NJ. Please check the DVOA website periodically for possible updates about this event - www.dvoa.org

We have organized this Registration Packet into groups of topics to make the information simpler to follow as well as to navigate to whatever is most important to each group's category and situation.

Registration Guidelines

- **Event Guidelines**
- **Which Course to Run?**
- **Pre-Course Instruction**
- **Pre-Registration Process**
- **Entry Form Logistics** (refer to Entry Form attachment)

General Information and Additional Event Guidelines

- **Good Sportsmanship and Orienteering Etiquette**
- **Awards Presentation**
- **Day-Of Logistics**

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 for all officially entered groups.** You will find additional information about registration details in the following pages. |
- ___ **The following youth groups are eligible to participate:** Scout Championship: Cub Scout, Webelo, Boy Scout, Brownie, Girl Scout, Venture Crew in the Scout Championship. Area 4 Championship: JROTC Cadets. *General public (including non-registered scouts and cadets) are always welcomed, though not as Championship participants.*
- ___ **Registration is first-come first-served.** Our event permit caps the number of participants.
- ___ **Pre-event Instruction** will be available so that all youth, regardless of prior experience, can successfully compete in the competition. ***Please read the section about pre-event instruction – HIGHLY ENCOURAGED.***
- ___ **Electronic Equipment** DVOA is again using electronic scoring for the competition. As part of the registration fee, each competing team or individual will be provided with an “e-punch.” This “finger stick” is inserted into an electronic box at Registration, Start, at each control, and at Finish. All the e-punches and boxes (plus the associated computer equipment) represent a substantial investment made by DVOA. So any team or individual participant who loses their finger stick will be charged a \$45 replacement fee.

- ___ **Scout/JROTC leaders are responsible for obtaining their own council/school tour permits and insurance where appropriate.**
- ___ **We ask large groups to provide an adult volunteer to assist the event staff.** This person does not need to know anything about orienteering... just be able to read, follow directions, and be willing to help. We will have club staff manning Registration, Start, Finish, and running the electronic system. But in an event this size we would appreciate help from adult leaders to help staff, manage lines, etc.
- ___ We rent portable toilets on event day so that the event does not overload the park's septic systems.
Please ensure that everyone in your group knows to use these units whenever possible.
- ___ **For Scouts interested in camping**, all camping reservations are the responsibility of the unit. There are a variety of options in PA and across the Delaware River in NJ convenient to the event location.
- ___ **Courses for Scouts.** There will be courses at four distinct, progressively more challenging, levels of difficulty (White, Yellow Short, Yellow Long, and Orange) so that every scout should encounter a challenge suited to his or her experience and capabilities.
- ___ **Courses for JROTC Cadets with sufficient experience.** In addition to White and Yellow courses, cadets are encouraged to run intermediate (Orange) or advanced level courses (Brown & Green) ...**IF they are experienced enough to do so.**

Which Course to Run?

Ideally all youth should compete with other youth of the same rank and orienteering skills. Otherwise it can be embarrassing and/or frustrating for all participants. Four courses will be offered for Scouts, with an additional two courses for **qualified** JROTC cadets. If in doubt as to what course is appropriate for a participant, please read the guidelines below or even contact the event director or course setter.

Course 1 (Orienteering USA White) *Cub Scouts, Webelos, Brownies, Juniors, new scouts, Tenderfoot Scouts. and JROTC new to orienteering.* For safety's sake, it is fine to have an adult "shadow" the youngest scout teams as long as they don't lead the team. Being of high school age, beginner JROTC cadets in groups of 2 (or at most 3) have no need to be "shadowed."

Course 2 (Orienteering USA Yellow Short) *Second Class and/or First Class Boys; Girl Scout Cadettes, less experienced JROTC.* Any Scout competing on a Yellow course should have prior experience successfully navigating a White course. Scouts compete in pairs to follow BSA and GSUSA guidelines, the only possible exception to be older senior Scouts who have sufficient experience.

Course 3 (Orienteering USA Yellow Long) *Star, Life, and/or Eagle Boy Scouts, Venturers, Girl Scout Seniors, experienced JROTC.* Scouts compete in pairs. Cadets can compete in groups or individually.

Course 4 (Orienteering USA Orange) **Experienced orienteers ONLY** (*youth of any rank or adult*) may run alone on a typical Orange level course. Scouts generally run in pairs to comply with GSUSA/BSA guidelines. Event Staff may move a participant to a less difficult course if the participant does not have enough experience to run Course 4.

Moving from Yellow to Orange (Intermediate) is the largest leap of orienteering levels. While Orange generally uses easier features to find and recognize than advanced courses, Orange *does* require advanced cross terrain (off trail) navigation. Just because someone has completed two Yellow courses does NOT mean they are ready for Orange. When Yellow level navigation is experienced as too easy and you really understand subtler features on the map, only then you are ready.

The following courses are open ONLY to experienced advanced orienteers:

Course 5 (Orienteering USA Brown) *Advanced orienteers (experienced JROTC cadets or any adult)* typically run alone on a Brown level course. Cadets in pairs on their first Brown course are acceptable.

Note: *While Orange is a longer course, do not let the distance of the Brown course fool you when selecting your course. Brown is easily the more difficult course to complete successfully.*

Course 6 (Orienteering USA Green) *Advanced orienteers (experienced JROTC cadets or any adult)* typically run alone on a Green level course.

NOTE to JROTC Units

While this event may (hopefully in the near future) be organized as THE Area 4 Orienteering Championship, we have not yet arrived at that level of organization. We hope that the JROTC part of this championship progresses to a true all-out Area 4 Championship, either on a separate day and/or even at another venue. When that occurs, all bets are off on how to disperse your roster to maximize your unit's score.

But for now, we ask (on the honor system) that you keep your cadets on the courses they usually run rather than gaming the system. For example, please do not enter cadets on beginner courses who routinely run advanced courses, just to accumulate your highest possible point total. This way, cadets from smaller or less experienced units can compete fairly on their course and have a more enjoyable experience.

NOTE to ALL Groups – When Is It Time to Move Up a Level?

Completing one or two courses at a specific level is not reason to move up to the next level next time around. Only when you **successfully complete** a course (when you clearly show a level of mastery) should you consider moving to the next course level. Taking 2 hours to finish the White course shows that you are NOT ready for Yellow. The best rule of thumb is that when the level of the course you are running feels too easy – **AND your time matches that self-assessment** – only then are you ready.

Moving from Orange to Brown Don't let the distance fool you – shorter does NOT mean easier. Brown is truly advanced, just not as long as other advanced courses. If you are not ready for advanced control features, flag placement, and true cross-country navigation, the "shorter" Brown course will end up being MUCH longer (and more frustrating) than the Orange course.

Size of Teams We strongly encourage you to keep teams to 2 members, at most 3. And in the case of very accomplished orienteers, to run their course individually. From years of experience we have found that the larger the team gets, the more some will simply follow the group, learning nothing of map reading and navigation, of relocating after making a wrong turn, or the joy of completing a course on their own. In other words, the more in the group, some of them simply will not be orienteering. So whether qualifying for a merit badge or competing for a medal, maximize what your scouts and cadets get out of this event.

Pre-Course Instruction !!!!!

ALL GROUP LEADERS, PLEASE READ THIS:

In recent years, it has become abundantly clear that many scouts, cadets, and their leaders have an inflated idea of their readiness to move up levels. Upon our staff asking scouts and cadets at Start (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 scouts and cadets to attend basic instruction (available throughout the morning from veteran DVOA orienteers) BEFORE they run their course. Many scouts and cadets who have run a beginner 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 just doesn't cut it, especially when on the easier 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 get 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.

Pre-Registration Process Rosters, Fees, and Payment

All Registrations and Competition Fees Must Be Sent Directly to Our 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 each group.

Especially using the e-system, this prep work relies on having everything possible set up ahead of time – compiling all the rosters, assigning Start times, preparing day-of packets, including assigning the e-chips for each team in each troop and unit.

After submitting your official Entry Form, you will still be allowed to make minor changes up to the day of the event, but much of what we plan depends on accurately anticipating and organizing all the detail we need to manage.

LATE ENTRIES will be charged a late fee – postmarked later than Oct 13th, emailed later than Oct 17th. In the case of special circumstances, late fees *may* be waived at the discretion of the Event Director. The Entry Form allows you to change details as you get details nailed down. Day-of changes will not be penalized, BUT please keep any such changes to a minimum.

*To minimize groups contacting us **very late** in the process because they haven't heard about the event, **please pass this information along to all group leaders you know** AND refer them to www.dvoa.org or www.scoutorienteeing.com for postings.*

Refunds Because the courses are preprinted on your maps, as well as a variety of extra expenses for an event this large, we cannot refund any registrations. However, in the past we have been able to mail maps and patches to groups who register and are then unable to attend.

AS A COURTESY, we ask that as soon as you decide to attend the event, **please let us know you will be attending along with projected numbers**. It helps us immeasurably to have a reasonable projection of our eventual numbers before the flurry of last minute entries leading up to the deadline.

It also helps us accurately estimate how many maps we need to print!

We will not hold you to the information you provide, it is just a way for us to prepare for our potential numbers. **NOTE** – Then send us your Registration forms and information as early as possible, and payment at least 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 separate Entry Form attachment)*

Start Times Assigned

When pre-registering, you may also ask for a desired starting time window for your unit. We generally fill start slots earliest to latest. So late arriving requests for early start times will most likely not be accommodated. All scheduling decisions made by the DVOA Registrars will be final.

Team Composition

You may choose the exact make-up of the teams on event day. When the unit leader checks in, we will provide a team form with assigned e-punch numbers for each team (used for the scoring). You then complete the form with the names of each team's members, and 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. *Exception for youngest, least experienced scout groups where larger groups are okay.*

One Entry Form Per Each Distinct Group

DO NOT register different categories of units on the same form *even if you are affiliated* – such as a Cub Scout Den and Boy Scout Troop, or Girl Scout Troop Cadettes and Juniors, etc. Please use separate forms for each group to avoid confusion.

Awards Presentation

Using DVOA's electronic system, we can get team, individual, and group results as soon as all teams complete their courses. So we can compile full troop, crew, and unit scores rather quickly.

So we invite your group to stay for the presentation of awards once all competitors have finished. Otherwise awards will be mailed to you.

Scouts: Individual Medals (1st through 3rd) for each course level, and Team Trophies (1st in all categories)
Cadets: Trophies presented by JROTC organizers, individual medals for each course presented by DVOA

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 also follow park signage once our staging area is designated and approved. Parking is limited near Registration. Buses should drop off the team and then drive to a more distant parking lot, which we will direct the drivers to. Once nearby parking is full in the morning, smaller groups may need to do the same thing. We will supply maps to show where the overflow parking is located.

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 at least by 9:30am. 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 – The park uses septic systems. A large group such as ours may easily outstrip the septic system's capacity. So please tell your team to use the port-o-potties whenever possible.