

James Ray 2023 Course Setter Notes

General Notes

The registration area will be at the same location as years past. Simply drive into the camp and park in the two parking lots. Registration will be located in the second large building to your north. It has a large, covered area attached to it.

Once you have checked in at Registration, you may proceed to the start area, a short walk west of the registration. Since the event is all EPUNCH, there will not be assigned start times. Starts will be one minute apart. Since no start times will be needed, we will be onsite, and people may start once they have checked in at registration.

Please make sure you check back in with the Finish area and download your ESTICK. Please do this even if you did not complete the course. This allows NTOA to know if there are missing competitors. **Please return and check in at finish within three (3) hours of starting your course.**

Restrooms:

The camp has winterized the restrooms directly behind the registration building and those are closed. There are restrooms at the pavilion just north of the parking lot which are small but open. There are larger restrooms to use are located northwest of the parking lots, at what was the OLD pool area. There are areas for Youth and Adult, but you may use any of them. There is a timed light switch located just inside the door. The bathrooms at the new pool are also winterized and are closed.

Trails and Streams

Many trails are covered with leaves and may be somewhat difficult to find and/or follow. **Those hard-to-find trails on the Yellow courses have been flagged with ribbon.** There may also be a few indistinct trails that had become so indistinct that they have almost “disappeared”. Those that we investigated have been removed but there may be others.

Almost none of the streams and ditches have water but those that do are high and/or muddy. Remember, you may only cross water if you can see the bottom.

New Trails in Process

The BSA staff have built several new trails and campsites in the southwest portion of the camp. The trails are mapped but the camping areas currently only have signs which have not been mapped. Some have fire rings and these are also not mapped.

People on Orange, Brown, Green and Red, the scouts have used a Bob Cat to clear brush from encroaching on roads and major trails in the southern section of your map. The debris has been pushed off the roads/trails and one result is that there appear to be new main trails off the older roads/trails. Be careful of these new features which are NOT mapped and can appear to be roads. They may be identified in that they end quickly.

New Structures

The BSA staff has been busy adding picnic table shelters at most of the campsites. They are red-topped open air metal structures. In adding these structures, they occasionally had to move flag poles and fire rings. Quite a few of these structures have been added to the map along with any corresponding fire ring/flagpole changes. But there are a handful of campsites on the north side of the loop that haven't had their structures/modifications mapped yet.

The swimming pool has been moved next to the main parking lot and the old pool has been removed.

Gates

The gates cut into the non-crossable fence that runs along the North and South sides of Mill Creek Road about halfway between the main camp entrance and the far west corner of the main property are not traditional gates. They are simply holes cut in the fences. The gates are small and have some wires sticking out that have been taped over. Use caution if you choose to use these holes in the fence.

Dangers

The Orange, Brown, Green and Red courses cross the main road twice. Please watch out for cars when crossing and running beside the road.

Running through unfamiliar terrain is always dangerous. Notable terrain hazards at James Ray include high cliffs, non-crossable streams, briars, loose rocks, Cedar tree branches, and leaf-hidden hazards.

There are several old/ruined barbed wire fences on the property. Many are buried under the leaves and not readily noticeable. Those that I came across, I marked with orange/pink ribbon. But there are going to be plenty that are not marked.

Rifle Range

The rifle and archery ranges are part of the active courses this weekend (there is no shooting). You can ignore any signs that restrict entry into those areas.

Sportsmanship

The courses utilize the entire property and pass through the camping areas. Please use courtesy around any campsites in use by others. There are also several houses on the property or boundary of the property – most are marked out of bounds. Please be courteous and avoid running through the yards of these houses.

Members of your group should stay within the camping areas and do not use this as an opportunity to explore the camp. Competitors who venture outside the camping areas or tamper with the controls will be immediately disqualified.

Safety Bearing

The main camp is on a peninsula, which extends into Lake Texoma. It is split by the main road. When on the main camp, generally go uphill east or west to the main road.

The safety bearing when on the south camp area is to go Northeast to Mill Creek Rd.

Map Notes

Map has a 3-meter contour interval.

The map uses 3 nonstandard symbols to define the unique vegetation. Yellow background with green dots (usually denotes orchard) means fast running with low visibility. Green background with tiny yellow dots, means slow running with good visibility. Green X-pattern, means uncrossable.

Past droughts followed by flooding has modified some of the vegetation. Areas that are shown as dark green and were once not crossable may be crossable now. The woods are relatively navigable in most places but there are plenty of briars that can impede progress.

The area has intricate gully systems. Gullies are shown by contour lines or the gully symbol. The dry ditch and intermittent stream symbols are shown in blue to make the map easier to read.

Special feature X can show old cars, boats, trailers, rusted equipment, trash piles and other man-made items. There are new houses on the borders of the map. Some of these houses are not mapped.

Start/Finish

The start is in the field west of the dining hall. The finish is on the east side of the dining hall.

Course specifications

Course # controls Length (km)

White	11	2.35
Yellow	13	3.29
Orange	16	4.64
Brown	12	4.30
Green	15	5.29
Red	19	6.90

Gene Wernette and Ray Janes