

## **James Ray 2021 Course Setter Notes**

### **COVID Notes**

Due to COVID Pandemic concerns, all participants must wear a face mask except when you are on your course. You need a mask on while checking in and waiting in line for any administration tasks, including waiting in the line for your start. You may remove and pocket your mask once you are heading to the start triangle. We ask everyone to maintain six feet separation for physical distancing purposes. After you reach the final control, we ask that you put your mask back on before you approach the finish table. You will need to download, get your result printout and step away from the area. If you rented an ESTICK from NTOA, we will have a bucket with soapy water for you to place your ESTICK into.

### **General Notes**

This event will be run as a “Bare Bones” event. We will only have three courses set up. A Yellow course, a Brown course, and a Red course. All three courses will use electronic timing. NTOA can rent out ESTICKS to people but the club is limited to 130 rentals. If you have your own, you should be using it. There will be NO water placed along any of the courses. Please carry your own water with you.

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, which is the old dining hall area. It has a large, covered area attached to it.

Restrooms are located behind the registration building and also at the small pavilion just north of the parking area.

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 anytime between 9 AM and Noon.

There are no awards at this event and results will only be posted on the NTOA website.

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.

## 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.

**Brown and Red runners, 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/flag pole 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 Brown 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 un-crossable.

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**

Regular Start # controls Length (km) Map Scale

Yellow      15          3.04          1:7500

Brown        12          4.53          1:7500

Red           15          6.94          1:10000

*Gene Wernette and Ray Janes*