

Welcome

Cooper Lake State Park, South Sulphur Unit, (CLSP) is a relatively new map. It was first used for the 2017 Interscholastic and Intercollegiate Championships.

Some special symbols are used on this map. The dotted brown 'small gully' line is used for abandoned trails. Small gullies are shown the same as minor watercourses. Special items (black X or O) may represent large piece or pile of rusty metal, abandoned animal trap, radio tower guy wire anchor, large buoy, gas wellhead, trailside bench, post with spigot or utility box.

Current conditions related to terrain

An extensive controlled burn took place recently in the section of the park where our courses will go. As a result, visibility and runnability should be as good as it gets. However, some vegetation on the map may represent pre-burn conditions, since there wasn't time to remap all areas that the courses visit.

As of this writing, less than two weeks before the event, the lake is near "conservation pool", which is another way of saying "full". That is slightly higher than the lake level shown on the map. No courses include a logical route choice that would involve running the shoreline, so that should not be a concern.

Because Northeast Texas has had a wet winter, many of the watercourses, ponds, depressions and intermittent marshes that are often dry, now hold water. Orienteers may ignore any "trail closed" or "no public access" signs for this competition.

Hazards

Vegetation: Green briar, honey locust (read: long thorns), and poison ivy. Gaiters or some other form of leg protection is recommended.

Fauna: The park is home to some venomous snakes (rattlesnake, copperhead, water moccasin, etc.), but they will still be dormant. Destructive feral hogs are present, but you'll likely see only the mess they leave behind. If you do see them, make loud noise and they will run away. Common non-hazardous creatures include white-tailed deer and the nine-banded armadillo (NTOA's mascot).

Insects: Mosquitoes, ticks, chiggers, etc., should not be emerging yet.

Man-made: Ruined fences with barbed wire lying on the ground or just a foot or so off the ground.

Terrain: Deep gullies with tall earth banks.

Safety Bearings

If you become lost and cannot find your location on the map, use the safety bearings. (Of course, if you see signs pointing to "camp" or "parking", follow them.)

White and Yellow: Go East until you find a major trail, power line, paved road, or boundary fence then follow it north to the finish area.

Advanced courses: Go East. If you find a deep uncrossable gully or the lake, go south to the big trail and follow it East.

Course info

Scale varies by course: Orange, Brown, Green and Red use 1:7500; White and Yellow use 1:5000. Contour interval is 3 meters

Course	Length (km)	Climb (m)	Number of controls
White	2.15	36	12
Yellow	3.28	48	16
Orange	4.27	84	16
Brown	3.68	93	12
Green	5.23	111	16
Red	6.93	138	20

There are many controls visible in the forest. Be sure to check your control codes! Also, there are a few extra, non-orienteeing-related ribbons in the terrain.

Do not stray outside the park and into private ranches and woodlands that are marked as out of bounds on the map.

There will be at least one water stop with drinking water on (or near) all courses. They are indicated by the Cup symbol on the map, not in the control descriptions. Please use cups provided and dispose of them in the bag or bin provided.

Parking, registration, start, and finish are all in the Buggy Whip Equestrian Camping Area. Please be respectful of any campers and be cautious around horses in the camp area or on the trails. Make visual and vocal contact with the rider and follow their directions to navigate around the horses.

Course Setter: Gene Wernette