

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

As of this writing, less than two weeks before the event, the lake is near "normal".

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. These are NOT flagged with caution tape. Be observant

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 "Trail head", "camp" or "parking", follow them.)

White and Yellow:

If you HAVE crossed the big gully using the bridge and are in the middle of your course. Go west until you find a major trail, power line, paved road, or boundary fence then follow it north to the marked bridge crossing.

If you have NOT crossed the big gully using the bridge or you have crossed back over the big gully using the bridge, Go west until you find a paved road and then follow it north to the finish area.

Advanced courses:

Go West. If you find a deep uncrossable gully or the lake, go south to the big trail and follow it west.

Course info

Scale varies by course: Check the map for the scale.

Contour interval is 3 meters.

All courses are on the technical end of what is allowed.

Due to difficulty and climb the course are on the short end of the allowed range.

Course	Length [km]	# of Controls	Climb [m]
White	3.7	15	45
Yellow	4.4	14	60
Orange	5.0	13	71
Brown	4.6	11	63

Green	5.3	13	99
Red	6.1	15	115

Special notes

WHITE:

- The second leg of your course will be OFF trail. You will be following a ditch covered in tall grass. It is NOT flagged.
- You will cross a large gully using a bridge, make a loop and cross back over the same bridge. Be sure to check control numbers and only punch the control in order. You will pass some of your controls a second time

YELLOW:

- The first leg of your course will be OFF trail. You will be following a clearing edge/tree line. The map also show sa ruined fence in the trees but the fence is practically invisible.
- You will cross a large gully using a bridge, make a loop and cross back over the same bridge. Be sure to check control numbers and only punch the control in order. You will pass some of your controls a second time
- Several legs will be along the edge of the park on firebreak tracks. Do not stray outside the park and into private ranches and woodlands that are marked as out of bounds on the map

ORANGE, BROWN, GREEN, RED:

- Courses are designed such that there are legs that may have reasonable gully crossing at some place NOT marked with the special 'purple crossing' location. Those are gully borders shown in BROWN. Any gully border shown is BLACK was consider non-crossable and reasonable routes exist that do NOT require crossing the black border areas.
- With this being the winter season, some of the vegetation areas have better visibility or runnability that shown on the map.

ALL RUNNERS:

- There are many controls visible in the forest. Be sure to check your control codes!

- there are a few extra, non-orienteering-related ribbons in the terrain.
- There will be at least one water stop with drinking water on (or near) all courses. **They are both at the marked crossings.** The cup symbol is on the map near the crossing. Please use the cups provided and dispose of them in the bag or bin provided.

Parking is in the Heron Harbor Day Use Area Parking lot. The registration, start and finish are all in the Heron Harbor Day Use Area.

Course Setter: Carl Bridges, Shania Bridges