

2026 Tyler State Park Orienteering Meet – Course Setter Notes

Welcome

Welcome to Tyler State Park (TSP). Be prepared to run on some of the best terrain available to the NTOA club.

Terrain

Tyler has a mix of vegetation – from open runnable forest to dense vegetation. There is an intricate set of trails and intermittent streams combined with significant contour changes. Although there are still many areas with dense vegetation, the park is the most open that I have ever seen it in the 30 years I've been orienteering here (due to proscribed forest burns over past few years).

When choosing routes in this park, it is recommended that you pay close attention to the contours and consider route choices they may contour around instead of simply ignoring the elevation change.

Many trees blew down in the recent winter storms resulting in numerous large rootstocks - - so many that we couldn't map them. Thus, all rootstocks are hidden so that no rootstocks are shown on the map.

I updated all of the trails in the area that white and yellow be on, but didn't have time to check all of the trails in areas for the other courses.

Hazards

Vegetation: Green Briar, Poison Ivy, Honey Locust (thorns) grow in this park. Gaiters or some other form of leg protection is recommended.

Fauna: TSP is home to the normal range of Texas critters, including snakes, spiders, armadillos, squirrels, deer and such. These may be encountered but not likely.

Man-Made: There are some barbed wire fences and a few other man-made hazards. All known barbed wire fences are marked on the map. There is one area on the West side of the park where lots of tins cans, broken bottles and other trash is laying on the ground. The Orange, Green and Red course go relatively close to this area, but no good route choices go through this area. This area is marked as out of bounds on the map. Do not enter this area.

Out-of-Bounds

All camping areas, cabin areas, screened shelter areas, maintenance areas and areas under construction are marked as out-of-bounds. Do NOT enter these areas.

Safety Bearing

TSP is surrounded by a fence. Runners should not cross any fences. Safety bearing is generally to go main park road around the lake and then walk back to registration (finish).

Start & Finish

The Finish is located near the meet headquarters at the Group Pavilion. The Start is located on the main park road to the north of the lake. The walk from the pavilion to the start is about 5 minutes.

Course Info

Course	Number Controls	Length (km)	Climb (meters)
White	12	2.1	70
Yellow	11	2.8	90
Orange	10	4.8	140
Brown	10	3.3	90
Green	11	4.7	120
Red	11	5.8	160

All runners are encouraged to carry their own water.

There will be three water stops in total and each course will go fairly close to two of them. They are indicated by the cup symbol on the map.

Visibility is good at this time of year at Tyler State Park. You will be able to see controls that are not on your course. Be sure to check your control codes before punching.

You may encounter some colored ribbons that are in the woods that are NOT part of this orienteering event. Please ignore those and leave them undisturbed.

Orange, Brown, Green, and Red orienteers can enter the fire lanes (that are signed as 'do not enter') if needed for your route on your course.

Course Setter - Jim Stevens (with help from Stan Darnell in setting out controls)

Run safe and navigate well!