

TJOC 2009 Orienteering Training Staff

Update #1 – March 15, 2009

Welcome

Greetings everyone! Let me officially welcome you to the TJOC 2009 orienteering training staff. You are receiving this email because we believe you are involved in some manner with providing an aspect of the orienteering training at TJOC.

I would like to start by thanking you for your willingness to support the training effort at TJOC and also thank you for taking the time to make TJOC 2009 another quality camp for the kids in the southwest region.

As many of you are probably already aware, this year there have been changes to the skill level mix of campers attending TJOC and to the entry requirements for TJOC. These changes have impacted the planning and preparation for TJOC and in turn will impact the assignments of tasks and the schedule for completing those tasks.

In addition to the changes above, we are putting TJOC together without several key participants from prior years. We are each working hard to understand and perform our new duties.

Thank you for the patience you have shown to us over the past few months. We now ask that each of you do your best to help us deal with the changes and to help us finish and make TJOC 2009 another great camp.

We are now at the point we need to finish the detailed planning and get everyone started on their tasks.

This information is getting out later than I had planned so please read everything carefully.

Cross Training/Sharing of duties

The recent loss of key participants has emphasized the need to cross train additional individuals on the many aspects of TJOC. This year you will see some sharing of duties and some cross training. Several people will be taking on roles that are different from those in the past.

Training Co-Coordinators

Major Vidinha's shoes being very difficult to fill, the position of Orienteering Training Coordinator is being filled by two people: SFC Duane Adams and Erica Urich. A short breakout of duties follows:

Orienteering Training Co-Coordinator (Duane Adams)	Orienteering Training Co-Coordinator (Erica Urich)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare Training Schedule • Task all training and competitions • Oversee Zero-to-Orange Course • Order medals and t-shirts • Print maps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversee setting of all controls • Oversee conduct of all Intermediate and Advanced training at camp

Course Coordinator and Map Coordinator

In the past, all things course related or map related have been coordinated and completed by a single individual. We have taken advantage of Tatyana's extensive knowledge and desire for orienteering excellence and have overloaded her with so many duties that she has had to devote many weeks exclusively to TJOC activity.

This year our plans include having a Course Coordinator and a Map Coordinator. The course coordinator will be handling most tasks that are course related while the map coordinator will be handling most tasks associated with the maps. These two individuals will work closely together so that everything will be completed in a consistent manner.

The Map Coordinator will be Tatyana Svistun. The Course coordinator will be Carl Bridges.

A short breakout of duties follows:

Course Coordinator	Map Coordinator
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate with all Course designers/Course Setters • Coordinate all control numbering and control descriptions • Coordinate areas and controls used by each course • Basic course design evaluation • Communicate with map coordinator on course evaluation • Review map changes and determine which course designers are effected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General revision and updates to the All Saints map • General revision and updates to the Camp James Ray map • Field verification of control points (suitability for use) • Critical map updates needed near control locations • Expert course evaluations • Cross train course coordinator in course evaluations • Send all map changes to course coordinator • Arranging for ribbon hanging at control locations

By reviewing the above assignments you will see that most of the communications tasks have been given to Carl to free Tatyana up to handle the many hours of field work.

A more detailed breakout of duties will be provided by these 2 individuals as needed. All course designers and course setters should expect a follow-up communications message.

Beginner/Intermediate/Advanced

This year at TJOC the camp attendees will include some cadets with less experience than attendees in past years. This change in attendance requirements is being made to allow schools in our orienteering community that do not have leadership with strong orienteering experience to send less experience cadets so that they may begin to develop orienteering experience within their units.

In support of this change, TJOC camp will include a category of Beginners for those with White course level experience. These attendees will be following a 3-day program based on the USOF Zero-to-Orange training. Upon completion of the 3-day program the successful candidate will be merged into the Intermediate classification.

The coordinators for this training will be: Ralph Courtney and Duane Adams

Course Designers vs. Course Setters

Traditionally, a course setter has responsibilities for: designing multiple courses, field checking control locations at the event site, redesigning the courses based on the field checking, making minor map update near control locations, determining control descriptions, arranging non-course items on map (titles, copyrights, logos, ...), defining the print window and size, printing maps, and finally overseeing or performing control bag hanging.

Some of you that are responsible for courses at TJOC will be doing the **Course Setter** work much as normal with the exception of the printing task, the map update task and control bag hanging task. [This requires you to be able to visit the sites of your course in order to complete your work]

Some of you that are responsible for courses at TJOC will be doing the **Course Designer** work only. This will allow you to focus on the course design. The field work and the printing work will be done by others. (This will be the method used for anyone that will not have easy access to the event sites)

Again, expect to hear more about this from the course coordinator.

Diagnostic Test/Diagnostic-O

There will be a multiple choice test the first day. This will be used to ensure all camp attendees are in their proper classification. There will be a shadowing evaluation the first day of camp as well. This may also indicate a need to change classification, but, in the least, will give initial information to mentors.

Elite/Junior Staff

In order to clarify the reason for being at camp by every participant, the **Elite** classification has been removed. Some, who would have been **Elites**, will be **Advanced** and subject to all training (orienteering and otherwise). Some will be designated **Junior Staff**. All **Junior Staff** have assigned tasks at camp and will be available to assist in training at any given. Come to camp ready to assist in training.

Final Comment

The TJOC experience has been one of learning through doing, with very little classroom time. This will not change significantly. However, there will be short evening classroom sessions as well as designated mentor/mentee time. These sessions will serve as introductions to the following day's events by introducing and teaching orienteering skills and techniques. The plan is to organize platoons along mentor/mentee lines, so that evening sessions might be platoon-sized.

I'm excited about the addition of the **Beginner Class**. We look forward to increasing numbers and graduating a class of TJOCers prepared to conquer the orienteering and JROTC world. We do want to ensure camp attendees are well-motivated. With the **Intermediates** and **Advanced**, we're pretty much assured of it, but, with the **Beginner Class**, we are relying on the JROTC Leaders to only certify motivated cadets to attend TJOC. With that in mind, this should be a great camp and the beginning of a new era.

Duane Adams
TJOC 2009 Training Coordinator