

You are entered in the
18th Annual Bay Area Orienteering Championships held at **Briones
Park on Sunday, October 17th**
as a member of Team Pack 1776.

What did you get yourself into, you ask? Well, orienteering is a sport for all ages where participants must efficiently navigate from one point to another using a map and compass. This sport builds self-confidence, enhances team building, improves map reading skills, and provides mental challenges as well as physical challenges – all while running around outside.

Our Pack 1776 scouts will compete in groups of two or three on Course 1 (White Course) which is 3.9 km long (or 2.42 miles) and has a maximum climb of 150 meters. The scouts will

need to find 10 control flags that look like




. Attached to the orange and white flag

will be a small gray control box



. Each team will be given one E-stick (electronic

finger stick)  which they will use to punch each of the 10 control boxes on their assigned course. These controls need to be found in the order listed on their map. There will be at least 50 controls out there all over the park, but they must only punch the ones for their own course. It is a race, so the point is to find the controls in the correct order as fast as you can (while staying safe, of course.) When we gather at the park, I will go over the map and these instructions again.

Please note that there is poison oak at the park, but NOT on the trails Course 1 travels. Horses may share some trails and they have the right of way. The starting area is an easy level 15 minute walk from the parking lot. **Let's meet at the Bear Creek Staging Area Parking Lot, at the start of the trail that leads into the park.** There are porta potties by the parking lot. There will be water on the course and at the start and finish (I think water jugs to refill your own water bottle.) This event proceeds rain or shine.

Prizes: Awards will be made to the best teams on each course. The champion troops will be determined by the results in all categories including the score event. There will be medals, certificates, and a Troop trophy. Each participant will receive a progressive participation patch. There will be other awards for answering some puzzle questions.

Equipment: Please wear strong trail or running shoes, no open toed shoes. If you have a compass, please bring it. If you don't have a compass you may rent one for \$1. I have 2 to share also. They also mentioned bringing a pen or pencil (for the puzzle questions), a watch, a water bottle, hat, and sunscreen. Bring your own lunch and or snacks.

Keep this event in mind for future years, especially when the kids are in Boy Scouts. The courses are arranged to meet the map and compass requirements for First Class, Second Class, or the Orienteering Merit Badge. The patches (included in the \$5 fee) are "progressive", so that a scout can participate in multiple Scout-Os and add to his or her patch sequence.

Directions: Check in will be at the West entrance to the park, off of Bear Creek Road. To get there, there are two choices. The one they recommend is - take route 24 West from 680. Exit at Orinda, heading North on Camino Pablo. After about 2 miles, turn right onto Bear Creek Road. After about 3.5 miles, the park entrance will be on your right — it is well sign-posted. (Don't be fooled by the parking area on the left — that's not it... but you could park there and walk if you like.) There is a \$5.00 charge for parking. In addition, you should see some orange and white signs as you get closer to the parking area.

An alternate route that is shorter but curvier is: take route 24 West from 680. Exit Central Lafayette, left on Deer Hill, right on Happy Valley, winding narrow road to Bear Creek, right on Bear Creek and right into the park.

I have attached a map of the park. **Note the Bear Creek Staging Area.**

I have also attached a very old sample orienteering map of the park. This is not the one we will be using, it is just a sample.

See you there at 10 am!