

Orienteering BC – AGM Cadets and Orienteering – Report 2017

Overall, cadets have had a very active year for participating in orienteering activities in BC. Thanks to the great support offered by the local orienteering clubs and OBC a total of over 180 cadets participated in orienteering activities within 2017. In areas without clubs (Comox, Prince George, Vernon), the presence of some excellent orienteering maps made it possible to organize events attended by cadets residing in these areas. Highlights for 2017 are as follows:

8 April – Interior Zone Cadet Competition (12 cadets)

Map: Vernon Cadet Training Centre and Becker Park

This event was organized by cadet training staff using a map produced by SAGE (Becker Park)

22 April – North Zone Cadet Competition (30 cadets)

Map: Moores Meadow, Prince George

This event was organized by cadet training staff using a map produced by Bryan Chubb and Mike Smith.

22 April – North Island Zone Cadet Competition (12 cadets attended)

Map: Nymph Falls, Comox/Courtney Area

This event was organized by cadet training staff using a map produced by the VicO Club

23 April – South Island Zone Cadet Competition (20 cadets)

Map: University of Victoria

This cadet competition was combined with a B-Event hosted by the **VicO Club**

23 April – Lower Mainland Area Cadet Competition (42 cadets)

Map: McCartney Creek, North Vancouver

This cadet competition was combined with a B-Event hosted by **GVOC**

30 April – Kootenay Zone Cadet Competition (24 cadets)

Map: Cranbrook Community Forest

This cadet competition was combined with a Score-O event hosted by **KOC**

30 Sep – 1 Oct – Kootenay Zone Cadet Orienteering Clinic (~40 cadets)

KOC hosted a clinic and introductory competition for cadets as part of combined cadet corps/squadron weekend training activity.

As orienteering gains more and more recognition as a great complimentary cadet activity, the capacity to organize more clinics and cadet-friendly events continues to grow. This should also increase the number of youth overall who are participating in orienteering. Some considerations for the future include:

- Moving the cadet clinics and competitions into the fall (starting in 2018) to avoid conflict with other cadet activities conducted in the spring and boost attendance.
- Continuing to provide events in new areas. Victoria, Vancouver and now the Kootenay area are doing well, but more work needs to be done to get more cadets involved in other areas.
- Standardizing a type of cadet participation fee across all clubs, so as to avoid an individual membership fee and a varied payment scheme depending on the club. (membership fees are problematic for DND to pay for or reimburse due to rules around usage of public

funds, also a majority of cadets attend one event, although some do attend more as they realize that they can use the club events to increase their training opportunities. Note: VicO provides a free membership to resolve this issue.

- Developing more Cadet Instructor Cadre (CIC) officers to become officials to help support orienteering events and organize cadets attending club events. We now have a number of CIC Officers who are active in the sport, who we wish to develop further. This is a joint project in conjunction with offering more easy access to the 100 Level Officials Course.

If trends continue, more and more cadets will likely be able to benefit from getting involved in orienteering. Although many of the cadets may not continue with orienteering after they complete the cadet program, we are seeing trends that some cadets return year to year as a member of their orienteering team. In addition, this form of public outreach offers a positive exposure for youth to orienteering and increases the likelihood that former cadets may re-discover interest in the sport as adults. Several VicO club members, who once experienced orienteering through cadets, scouts, guides, school and/or other youth groups have indeed returned to the sport as adults based on the positive experiences they remember.

This includes me. 😊

Submitted by:

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