

Sage Orienteering Club President's Report to OBC AGM 2024

The Sage Orienteering Club struggled in 2024. Our volunteer numbers are down, so our offered events are down, so our membership is down. In future years, we need to do a better job of scheduling, making volunteer jobs manageable, and encouraging new volunteers to help organize events.

In many respects, Sage is a conglomeration of four different smaller clubs in Salmon Arm, Kelowna, Kamloops, and Revelstoke; however, we share the main common issue of a lack of coordination, advance planning, and volunteers. Regional District and City parks are either increasingly challenging to get permits, or are impossible to get permits. Other than taking far more volunteer time than it used to, we are able to get permits (when needed) for provincial recreation sites on crown land areas, but these tend to be further from the city where it is harder to draw new participation. Brief summaries of each individual community within our larger club are below:

Salmon Arm

Salmon Arm struggled a bit this past year with key volunteers being busy with other volunteering roles in other sporting organizations. As such, we had very limited local events, which were not scheduled far enough in advance, and were insufficiently advertised to draw significant participation. The one exception to this, and the main highlight of the year was Sage Stomp, which was well attended and received by attendees, despite a relatively weak map pool. There are some plans beginning for next year to start a regularly scheduled junior program in Salmon Arm in the spring to help drive new membership and participation in the sport.

Kelowna

This fall, we continued a weekly evening training series that started last fall which provided some excellent training opportunities and grew slightly from last year. Our largest challenge in Kelowna is not enough orienteers with sufficient experience to help organize local events. Additionally, permitting for most urban parks is impossible, or these areas are insufficiently safe for an evening event, even if we could get permits. We are largely stuck with areas a further drive out of town, which makes local level evening trainings difficult. A bright spot in Kelowna was the Telemark Adventure Run, in partnership with the junior ski team where over 30 juniors attended in addition to some Sage members.

Kamloops

We have very limited volunteer time and resources in Kamloops, which has meant a slow decline in events and membership in the community. This year we had almost no events or membership from Kamloops. Our volunteers in other communities are stretched too thin already elsewhere to help that far from home. Also of note is that Murray Foubister was deservedly inducted into the Orienteering Canada Hall of Fame.

Revelstoke

We returned to organizing some self-directed trainings in Revy, but need to broaden the volunteer pool and have some in person events to help build up the club there. We need to target an O100 officials course here next year with someone from OBC brought in to help with the mentoring on the weekend of hosting an event. Sage lacks the volunteer base to help build up a set of volunteers in Revelstoke who want to help, but need support.