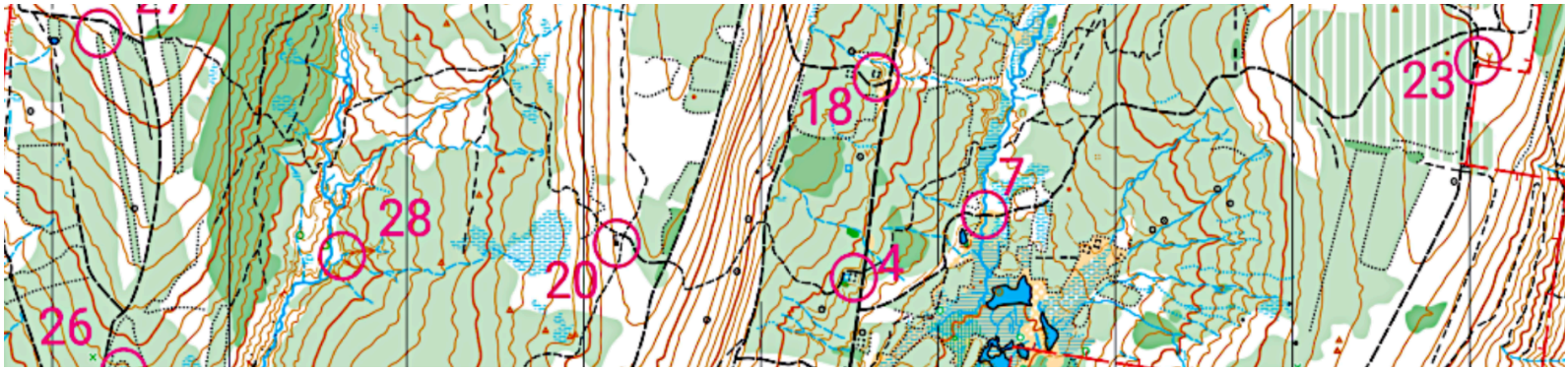
Central New York Orienteering
Scout-O Newsletter

Fall, 2026



What is the Scout-O?

The Scout-O at Highland Forest is an orienteering event for scouts and other youth groups which is hosted by the Central New York Orienteering club each November.

For those that have never tried orienteering, it is a sport which uses a map and compass to navigate from point to point through unfamiliar terrain. Participants are given an orienteering map which they use to find control points.

For more information about the sport of orienteering, visit OrienteeringUSA

Scout-O 2026:

Full event: November 1-14
Main weekend: November 7-8

Scout-O Sunday Patrol Race, November 8th

Scout-O Saturday is all about learning the sport of orienteering. After practicing those skills on our guided and self serve courses on Saturday, older scouts are ready for a challenge!

How It Works: Scouts, or other youth groups, can compete in **patrols** or teams of two sizes, **small** (3 to 5 people) or **large** (6 to 8 people). Larger troops have more opportunity to divide into patrols of whichever size they prefer. Each patrol needs a name and a leader.

During the competition, patrols may break into smaller **groups** of at least 2 people to visit controls then reassemble at the finish. Individual competitors are not allowed. The competition goal is to find as many control markers as possible in the shortest time. Controls may be visited in any order. Adults may accompany youth for safety but may not assist in locating controls. Adults may register to compete separately, as individuals or in adult-only patrols.

8:45 AM: Mandatory patrol leaders' meeting to go over the rules, with map handouts immediately following. (Leaders should plan on having their groups registered before this time so they don't miss out on the instructions.)

9:30 AM: Mass start. Time limit 90 minutes.

All controls have the same value. Every control found earns your team one point. The team with the greatest number of points at the end of 90 minutes will win their category. But beware! For every minute your team comes in after the 90 minute limit you lose one point!

(cont.)

Do you know ...

Course Colors

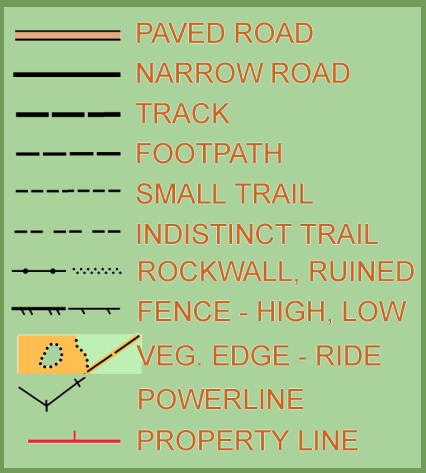
Courses for orienteering are color coded to indicate variations in navigational difficulty and course length.

Our novice courses are considered White (very easy) and our experienced courses are considered Yellow (easy) or Orange (medium).

At OUSA sanctioned meets look for these colors as well as more challenging Brown, Green, Red, and Blue courses.

Whose Line Is It?

You see lots of lines on the map, but what they indicate depends on the style of line as well as the color.



Pioneer Museum

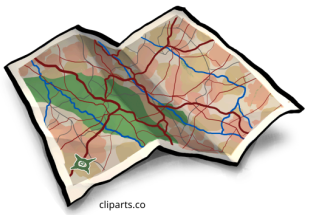
History found on site! Discover the unique history of Highland Forest and Fabius through an array of photographs and artifacts. Free admission. The museum is operated by the Fabius Historical Society and will be open during Saturday, 11/7, 9-1.

Scout-O Sunday Patrol Race (cont.)

Awards are given for each group size in each category and will be handed out soon after the finish of the event. Group categories include: Boy's Large, Boy's Small, Girl's Large, Girl's Small, Coed Large, Coed Small, Adult Single, Adult Group.

Strategy: Consider the abilities within your patrol and group your members as appropriate. Save easier controls for novice orienteers. Look at the terrain and gauge the stamina and speed of your group(s). Fast runners may be able to sweep up a cluster of points to increase your team's overall score.

With large patrols (6-8 people) you can split up into smaller groups of at least two people to cover more ground and reach more control points. All of the smaller groups need to be back at the finish, however, before you can hand in your score sheet. This can be problematic if you have one subgroup that is late getting back. It will cost you points if you reassemble after the 90 minute limit.



Small patrols (2-3 people) may find fewer control points but they may be better organized and will be competing against other small groups. Plan your routes according to your strengths.

Lastly, consider the mix of competitors in the event. Every category will have a winner and if your group is the only one in that category, you will earn the top spot!

Camping at the Scout-O

Primitive camping. Here are some essential rules:

- Water is available at the Shale Building (old office) 24/7.
- No electric hookups. Outhouses on site.
- Do not bring firewood. Collect campfire wood on site.
- Site are first come, first served.
- Adult leaders are responsible for group conduct and safety.
- Keep your fires under control.
- Leave no trace. Be considerate of your fellow campers.
- No pets allowed. No alcohol allowed.

For a complete guide to camping at Highland Forest, including a map of the Cedars tenting area, please see: OCP Youth Group Camping Brochure (.pdf)

Scout-O Links ...

Email our registrar at:
sjp16 @ cornell.edu

Flier for the event:
Scout-O Flier

Facebook announcement:
Scout-O on Facebook

Website address:
CNYOrienteering.net/scout-o/

Volunteer
Opportunities are available for older, experienced scouts to lead map hikes. Add to your service hour log!

Questions?
Contact Stacy Pendell
315-729-2894
sjp16 @ cornell.edu

Scout-O:
Highland Forest County Park
1254 Highland Park Rd
Fabius, NY 13063
42.83376, -75.92460

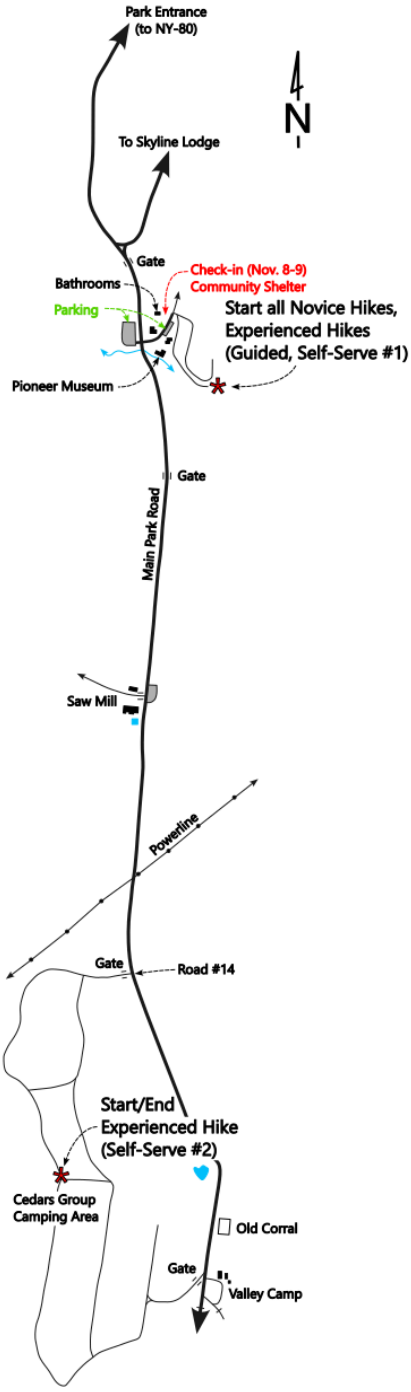
Where to Go

If you are coming for the main event weekend on November 7-8, be sure to check in at the Community Shelter which is just south of the turnoff for Skyline Shelter. Follow the white and orange signs to our check-in area. There is ample parking in the lot on the west side of the Main Park road.

All Novice hikes (*Novice Guided, Novice Self-Serve*) begin at the trailhead near the Community Shelter. A bathroom is next to the shelter and be sure to check out the Pioneer Museum while you are in the area!

After check-in, if your group has experienced orienteers that want more of a challenge, we have two of the three Experienced hikes (*Experienced Guided, Experienced Self-Serve #1*) starting at Valley Camp. If you would like a guide, ask for one at check-in.

For groups that will be staying overnight in our Cedars camping area, there is one more course that starts at this location. Look for the start control for the *Experienced Self-Serve #2* hike. This course is available to give groups a little extra practice before the Patrol Race on Sunday morning.



Highland Forest County Park