

# Hemlock Overlook

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**November 24  
Sunday**



Exactly 160 years ago today (November 24 th 1859)

Charles Darwin published Origin of the Species. Darwin may have had orienteering in mind when he said 'it will not be the strongest or most intelligent that survive, but the one most responsive to change.' Unlike baseball, and every other major sport, orienteering does not have a prescribed field, court or playing field dimension, every course is different, and we love it that way. Are those who orienteer more adaptive to change than others and better equipped to survive in today's world? Could be! Come out this Sunday and test your skills in Hemlock Overlook Park.

Details:

**Update: This event is no longer an NRE event.**

For this season's Hemlock Overlook event, we will be operating out of the pavilion (not the lodge up on the hill as with last winter's bumble). The pavilion is 200 meters straight inside the Hemlock main gate on the left and easy to find. Event timing is our usual: register any time between 10:45 - 1:15, start between 11 - 1:30, and be done before 3pm.

This event is also the venue for this year's course setter training course. Our course setter students, Tavia Sullens, Paul Morris, Rob Field, and Mark Thomsen have designed and set a full set of classic courses under the tutelage of Andrew Komm. So feel free to provide them with feedback when you are done with your course; course data and course setter comments are now posted below.

Note that the start location is 250 meters from registration.



Parking is always slightly complicated at Hemlock Overlook because of the configuration of roadways inside the venue. Please drive slowly, be patient and look out for pedestrians.

The rest rooms are just up the hill from registration, less than 50 meters away.

Any youth or large groups attending, please contact the [Event Director](#) [2] so that we can coordinate pre-registration for your group; the group registration and waiver [form](#) [3] is part of the information on our [Group Leaders](#) [4] page.

**Location**

Hemlock Overlook Regional Park, Hemlock Pavilion, Clifton, VA (Classic)

**Registration**

No advance registration required. Just show up and have fun!

**Start Times**

Start any time between the specified times (usually 11am - 1:30pm).

**Schedule**

**Sunday, November 24** 11:00 Classic:  
am -  
3:00  
pm

**Volunteers**

Event [Dennis Doherty](#) [5]

Director:

Course [Andrew Komm](#) [6]

Designer:

**Location Details**

**Classic** From Clifton VA, take Hemlock Main Street (route 641) Overlook south for 1 mile. Then go Regional right onto Yates Ford Park Road and drive to the Hemlock end (about 2 miles). Pavilion **Note:** Please drive Clifton, VA carefully along Yates Ford [Google Map](#) Road - it is narrow in [7] some places, and one section has a 15mph speed limit.

**Course Details**

Classic Course Name	Length (km)	Climb (m)	No. Controls
White	1.8	75	7
Yellow	3.1	125	9
Orange	3.5	170	10
Brown	3.3	120	10
Green	5.1	210	11
Red	7.2	260	13
Blue	9.3	340	18

**Course Notes**

**Classic**

The courses were designed and set by the members of the 2019 Virginia Course setting class. One of the course features the group decided to include was a common spectator control that is shared by all courses. Overall, visibility in the park is very good. The leaves have fallen and are quite slick. We recommend footwear that provides increased traction for the intermediate and advanced courses. Generally, the vegetation boundaries marked on the map are not as discernible on the ground as you would be led to



believe. We did not place controls on vegetation boundaries that are not obvious. There are areas of unmapped ruined fencing and wire in the northern portion of the map. We streamered areas that participants might encounter, but please be cautious. As is common with parks in the region, there are more root stocks present on the ground than what are mapped. All root stocks that are used as control locations are obvious on the ground and are mapped appropriately. The Blue course transits the far southern portion of the map. In this area, the vegetation is generally one shade thicker on the ground than what is mapped. Also, the vegetation boundaries are not reliable for navigation. The point placement in this area accounts for the difficulty in the vegetation.

### Entry Fees