

FAMILY WORKSHOPS



SESSIONS WITH A VARIETY OF MAP-READING GAMES AND TRAILS FOR FAMILIES TO ENJOY AT THEIR OWN PACE. FOLLOWED BY SHORT ORIENTEERING COURSES.

The format encouraged adults to explore alongside their child. We wanted the adults to participate rather than observe as we want them to enjoy orienteering too.

We set up four games across the area - with a variety of games for different sessions - symbol relays, cone courses, mazes, photo trails, symbol trails, compass games, pacing activities, pitch orienteering,...

Locations near town centres. Well known areas. Accessible for those without transport.

Lots of planning and preparation needed for activities - but once created these can be re-used.



Free sessions - encouraged families to come and have a go at something different.

WHAT WENT WELL

Indoor space - very valuable in Winter. We provided free warm drinks and biscuits - a good opportunity to chat about the club. Also toilet facilities.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

Clear instruction cards were provided at each activity station. Reducing volunteer time in explaining the game.

The games before the courses provided families with some useful map knowledge.

Rewards - we gave out stickers at the end of the session. Also Log Books for those interested in attending more events.

Permissions - our council areas needed applications well in advance. Other community areas welcomed us for free.

Advertising on Facebook in particular was very successful.

Online registration prepared us for the numbers attending. Also captured email addresses for future event information.

Depending on numbers attending - lots of volunteers needed



TOWN TRAILS

"TREASURE HUNT" USING SHOP WINDOW SIGNS AND BASIC STREET MAP NAVIGATION.



The format aimed to show families that orienteering at this level was actually an activity that they were familiar with and which anyone can take part in.

Once set up the trail can be in place for some time and needs very limited monitoring.

The maps and answer sheet were accessed via the club website therefore encouraging families to find out more about the club and our events.

Our first trail used signs, lamp post etc to extend the trail into different areas - these were repeatedly vandalised.

Perhaps organise a location for collection of printed maps

WHAT WENT WELL

The "control" posters also acted as an advertisement for the trail - QR code link used.

Prizes - the last shop on the trail hosted a collection box for the answer sheets and prizes.

Using OpenStreet map and Canva to create the maps worked well. Able to personalise well. Canva also used to create the window posters.

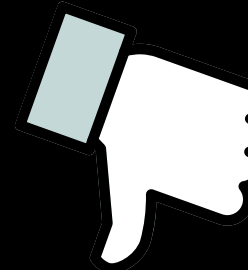
Advertising on Facebook in particular was very successful.

Email addresses were collected on the answer sheets. We could then send out future event information.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

Generating interest from shops took time. Consider approaching an organisation supporting the town centre (town council, BID,...) for help - or just visiting shops in person and asking.

Consider the time of year - Easter has seemed more popular than Christmas for us.



FAMILY / BEGINNER EVENTS



EVENTS WITH WHITE, YELLOW AND ORANGE COLOUR-CODED COURSES.

The events provide orienteering at a level where everyone can achieve success. Families were encouraged to take part as a group.

We were fortunate to have lots of volunteers willing to give up their time to help. Lots of support is needed at registration and the start to get families going.

We have very successfully used National Trust properties for these. They have the advantage of being well-known to families and usually have easy parking and facilities such as toilets, cafe, playgrounds on site making a great family day out.

Ensure the area is suitable for White, Yellow and Orange courses - paths networks and line features needed.

If events are entered on the day it is very difficult to predict how many maps to print.

WHAT WENT WELL

Advertising on Facebook in particular was very successful. Creating a Facebook event worked well.

Prizes - we gave out certificates, stickers and lollies at these events.

Some events used Maprun as part of the Find Your Way project and others have used SI dibbers.

Info about future events and activities displayed on a noticeboard.

These were free events. We feel this is vital to encourage families to try something new against the competition of a such wide range of children's activities on offer.

The range of courses provided a flexible challenge. Some families completed more than one course.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

At our Find Your Way events, we collected details on clipboards at registration which created queues. We have tried online registration using Microsoft forms to reduce time at registration. Collecting email addresses is beneficial for sending out future info.

