**Vasquez Rocks Information and Course Setter Notes**

**Park and meet information**

The park is gated. The gate opens at 8:00 am and closes promptly at 5:00 PM. If you get locked in you will need to call the Sheriff to get out.

Parking will be in the furthest lot to the east, follow the main (graded dirt) road. The start and finish will be located adjacent to this lot.

**General Course notes**

Vasquez Rocks is a real orienteering treat. This is one of the most technical maps in the country. The terrain may feel very alien, and it often stands in for alien terrain in movies and television.

The most noticeable feature of the park is the uptilted sandstone rock formations. In general they form long and shorter ridges with cliffs on the northeast side and smooth slopes on the other side. Cliffs may be short with passable gaps between sections. The slopes are often runnable and provide solid footing unless wet. Loose sand may be present, so be careful.

Individual boulders may be less than one meter to tens of meters across, some large enough that going around them is the best route choice.

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| Blue | 4.5 km | 220 m |
| Red | 4.0 km | 175 m |
| Green | 3.4 km | 125 m |
| Brown | 2.9 km | 115 m |
| Orange | 3.1 km | 140 m |
| Yellow | 2.6 km | 60 m |
| White | 2.2 km | 60 m |

**Trails**

There are numerous trails within the park. Many are distinct and are shown on the map. Use trails criss-cross the area but are generally not as well developed and tend to be short.

**Vegetation**

Vegetation is generally low and navigable with good visibility. Vegetation is thicker in some of the stream channels. We have been asked to protect the plants in the park. Please do not trample on the small plants if you can avoid them. The yucca and occasional cactus will let you know of their presence.

**Horses**

There may be people riding horses in the park. They tend to stay on the main roads and trails. Please give the right-of-way and move to the side or wait until they pass.

**Traffic**

All courses cross the main park road during the second half of the course. The crossing is in a generally visible area but please be careful when crossing.

**Safety Bearing**

The safety bearing is north to Escondido Road. It may be easier to climb on one of the taller rocks and look for the parking area.

**Model Event**

The model event is located closer to the entrance of the park. There is a parking lot near the visitor center and another on the road to the main parking lot on the north side. Controls will be placed on features similar to those found on the courses but generally smaller.

**Out of Bounds**

Other than the model map, parking and assembly areas, all other terrain is out of bounds. This includes climbing on the big rocks! That is only allowed after completing your course.