



NAVIGATION GAMES 2024 WRAP-UP

With a mission to develop, share and deliver navigation education for children, engage families, enable access to the sport of orienteering, and promote public health through outdoor exercise



Another year wraps up...

2024 has been a really busy and productive year - our team grew (we ♥ our new Program Manager Mikayla) and we expanded to new places with new partners.

Our core focus remains unchanged - to give educators the tools to teach life skills to youth through outdoor navigation games and activities. Our vision is for every youngster to be confident at map navigation, while having fun outside.

Contact us if you want us to work with your program!

2024 In Numbers

- **743** orienteering classes and events for **14,936** participants.
- **295** classes were run without NG staff, meeting our goal for teachers to run activities independently.
- **27** schools in MA experienced orienteering in classes (pre-K - 12).
- **19** workshops for educators in **6** states (ME, VT, NH, MA, CA, WV).
- **13** "Beginning to Orienteer" kits ordered from **8** states (MA, PA, NH, VT, CO, CA, FL, TN).
- **50** maps used; **16** new maps made.
- **55** volunteers donated more than **1,840** hrs, virtually and in-person.

2024 Highlights

- **450 third graders** from 12 schools took part in a team navigation challenge to celebrate the completion of their orienteering unit in Cambridge, MA.
- **56 cadets** competed on 5 courses at the NJROTC Orienteering Championships in Durham, NH. Thanks to orienteering clubs UNO & NEOC for their collaboration!
- Over **250 people** explored our new maps of Georges and Peddocks Islands, thanks to a Boston Harbor Now innovation grant.
- Nearly **350 people** signed up for our annual after-dark navigation game in October.
- Seeing how much fun **pre-schoolers** have with our games and learning about child development!



The Team



Our core team was augmented by orienteers-in-residence (Jules from France, Kieran from New Zealand), interns (supported by the Cambridge Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program) and a large group of volunteers. Together, they ran our programming, provided strategic, admin and tech support (shout out to Tech Transformations!), repaired equipment, created maps, designed courses and made Navigation Games a wonderful place to be! Thank you to all of you - we appreciate your time and energy!

School Orienteering

Bring map navigation to your school! Our programs kick off with a hands-on professional development session for teachers. We adapt our curriculum to fit the grades and number of sessions. We can co-teach the first lessons with you and even organize field trips to the woods.

In 2024, we brought orienteering to thousands of students across multiple districts. In **Cambridge**, every 3rd grader learned orienteering as a part of the PE curriculum, we co-developed a 2-week high school PE unit, and we taught navigation classes at all 5 upper schools. We supported after-school teams at the middle and high schools. In **Brookline**, we partnered with 6 schools to deliver PE units for elementary, middle and high school students. We ran programs in other schools (including **Lexington Montessori, Medford Public Schools, British International School**). Finally, we're staying connected with schools who can now teach orienteering independently of us.

Let's get your student moving, thinking and having fun with navigation! If you have a connection to schools, or other youth-serving organizations, please reach out!

Orienteering Outside of School

We worked with recreation departments, camps and other organizations to introduce youngsters to navigation games in outdoor spaces ranging from city parks to the deep woods.

What People Love Best

- "the right amount of info was given, but the **fun** was to figure the rest out"
- "**builds skills** such as graphical representation, memory, and communication with others"
- "**learning** a new thing with my family"
- "**interdisciplinary learning!**"
- "**exploring** natural areas and getting to know the land"
- "I can't believe that just a few days ago we were orienteering in this small area, and **now we know how to explore the whole park!**"
- "**friendship**"
- "the biggest **challenge** was trying to keep up with my kids"
- "**educational**, good for **all ages**, makes **exercise fun**"



2025 - Looking Forward

2025 will be **Navigation Games' 10th Anniversary** - stay tuned for some fun celebratory events!

Programmatically, we will continue to focus efforts on **enabling youth educators and leaders to teach life-skills through navigation games and activities.**

We are also looking to **grow our network of financial supporters and volunteers.** *Can we count you in? Please contact us to learn more!*

Donate!

Navigation Games is a 501(c)3 non-profit with a Platinum GuideStar transparency rating. Donations are tax-deductible. We rely on community support to fund our mission. This year, December donations will be matched by a generous donor, so don't wait, make your donation today!

Here's how:

- Online - www.navigationgames.org
- Send a check addressed to "Navigation Games", 116 Henry St, Cambridge, MA 02139
- Venmo, PayPal (@NavigationGames)
- Many employers will match your donation. Please request your employee match when you donate!

Thank you!

