



Navigation Games

Dear friends of Navigation Games: **Thank you** for your support and participation! We would like to share our 2020 story with you — and seek your help in meeting our goals for 2021.

At the beginning of 2020, Navigation Games was ready to replicate our successful school orienteering curriculum to new districts. We hired Jen and Tanairi to help with outreach and management. Then, the pandemic hit. We kept employees on staff as long as we could, but had to furlough them for several months. Jen found another job. We did not deliver any programs from March through July.

In July, we developed an online class and welcomed 55 kids at a free Activity Hero pilot, but did not attract any paying customers. In August, we began to provide in-person orienteering: for a private group and for Brookline Parks & Rec. Research was showing that outdoor activities were fairly safe, and we felt **we had an important role to play in offering kids and families a way to stay active and healthy during this difficult time.**

In October, we met with the PE curriculum team at **Cambridge Public Schools, expanding our 2019 3rd-grade curriculum to five grades**, and adding online lessons for the 50% who were remote learners. We hired Charlotte to help deliver the classes. The PE teachers we worked with this fall loved the orienteering unit. We received a COVID grant from the City of Cambridge, enabling remote learners to experience the in-person activities after school. We will publish the lesson plans for the online activities, thanks to an **SOS Foundation** grant. We have started talking again with other **school districts**. We are super excited to have received a grant to support our curriculum development, from the **Cabot Family Foundation**.

Meanwhile, Tanairi began to get a lot of traction with **Parks & Rec departments**. In Newton, a collaboration with **Orienteering USA**, the **New England Orienteering Club** and **Cambridge Sports Union**, along with some eagle scouts, has resulted in several new maps, weekly classes, and permanent orienteering courses. Parks & Rec projects are a great way to raise awareness about our sport, and synergize with our school programs.

In spite of the pandemic, we delivered **258 classes with over 3000 attendees** this year. Nearly all of our expenses are payroll, for program development and delivery, as well as outreach to spread the word about orienteering and start new programs. In 2020, program income paid for one third of our expenses; the remainder was covered by grants and your donations.

Looking ahead to 2021, we are excited to share our materials and approach for schools, clubs and parks & rec departments to use. We welcome volunteers to help with orienteering program delivery, grant-writing and the work of running a non-profit. We need financial donations in any amount, and connections to potential funders and new school districts. **Donations** can be made by check to Navigation Games, or through our website: **www.navigationgames.org**.



Navigation Games is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit.

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Navigationgames.org

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





2020 Programs



HIGHLIGHTS

Cambridge Public School students (JK-3rd grade) will get 6 orienteering lessons in PE in 2020-21.

We started collaborations with outdoor adventure organizations and Parks & Rec departments.

Workshops at professional venues: MA-HPERD, MEES, AEE, Chelmsford P.S., Lexington P.S.

We steered schools and towns to Orienteering USA's Youth Mapping Project to get 11 maps made.

School Programs

- JK-3rd grade PE curriculum (159 classes, both in person and online)
- Intensives (deep dives)
 - Morse School 5th grade (online)
 - Belmont Day School 6th-8th (in person, 5 days of training culminating in races; using maps made by New England Orienteering Club and US team junior Bridget Hall of Orienteering USA)
- Teams
 - CRLS high school (we supported new coach David Landrigan)

Outside of School

- After-school (26 classes in Jan & Feb)
 - Amigos Community School
 - Fitzgerald Community School
- Private events and training
 - Corporate team-building
 - Pandemic pods
 - Girl Scouts
 - NEOC juniors
- Public events
 - Afternoon repeats of in-school PE for both remote learners and in-person students to share with their parents (Dec)
- Parks and Rec departments
 - Classes for Brookline Rec, Newton Rec
 - 2021 planning for additional towns: Needham, Lexington, and others

Enabling others

- PE professional development workshops
 - Chelmsford PE teachers
 - Cambridge (K-5 teachers)
 - MA-HPERD (Mass. PE teachers) conference
 - AEE (experiential education)
 - Regional conference (Mar)
 - International conference (Nov)
 - MEES conference (environmental education)
- New partner organizations
 - Elevate Youth
 - Project Adventure
 - Waypoint Adventure
- Lesson plans
- Internships
 - CRLS high school student (Fall 2020)

Summer Program

- 6 teens from the Cambridge Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program
 - 5 weeks, 4 hours/day
 - Learn to orienteer
 - Work on projects to support our mission
 - Learn 21st century skills for educational and career success

Example costs

- \$5000 2 weeks of orienteering in one school district, or design a PD workshop
- \$2500 Start up in a new district: planning, map, demos, teacher workshop
- \$1000 Deliver a workshop at a conference
- \$500 New instructional video or one school map
- \$100 Print lesson plans and maps for a school intensive

Please donate: www.navigationgames.org