

Proper Attribution for Event Direction Maps

This article is meant to remind clubs that AVA Policy, <https://my.ava.org/files/tutorials/AVA-Policy-Event-Directions.pdf> requires copyrighted materials in event directions to comply with the usage rules for the copyrighted material.

Event directions should contain maps where the walking/biking route has been added. These maps are typically created using plotaroute.com or perhaps a map downloaded from a website.

The plotaroute.com service creates maps based on map data from OpenStreetMap, the maps created/displayed using plotaroute.com have the appropriate attribution in the lower left-hand corner:



The blue highlighted text is actually a link, <https://www.openstreetmap.org/copyright>, leading to a page that describes the preferred attribution. This page is a link to the OpenStreetMap Attribution Guidelines page, https://osmfoundation.org/wiki/Licence/Attribution_Guidelines.

The Attribution Guidelines page contains the following section that is applicable to PDF files:

“Books, magazines, and printed maps

For a printed map and similar media (that is ebooks, PDFs and so on), the credit must appear beside the map if that is where other such credits appear, or in a footnote/endnote if that is where other credits appear, or in the “acknowledgements” section of the publication (often at the start of a book or magazine) if that is where other credits appear. The URL to [openstreetmap.org/copyright](https://www.openstreetmap.org/copyright) must be printed out.”

When clubs create event direction maps using plotaroute.com, they often crop the map images with result of cutting off this attribution. This attribution should be restored to the map by either pasting the image of the original attribution or adding a text box like:

Map Data Copyright [OpenStreetMap Contributors](https://www.openstreetmap.org/copyright)

to the map image. Note the link in the above box leads to <https://www.openstreetmap.org/copyright>.

For maps that are downloaded from, for example, a park website that is then modified to display the walking/biking route and there are no obvious copyright or attribution guidelines, then the maps should include a link to the page where the map was downloaded from. For example,

Map: [Pennypack Map 072216](#)

Finally, a number of OSB event directions have been approved even though they did not contain the proper attribution for their maps. Starting in 2025 **new** OSB directions files will be required to contain the proper attribution for the maps they contain. Also Regional and Deputy Regional Directors need to check that **updated** OSB direction file maps contain the proper attribution prior to approval.