Orienteering

Direction-of-travel arrow line up the magnetic arrow and orienting arrow. Read bearing.

STEM-Based
ORIENTEERING

“Enhancing our youths’ competitive edge through merit badges”
Requirements

1. Show that you know first aid for the types of injuries that could occur while orienteering, including cuts, scratches, blisters, snakebite, insect stings, tick bites, heat and cold reactions (sunburn, heatstroke, heat exhaustion, hypothermia), and dehydration. Explain to your counselor why you should be able to identify poisonous plants and poisonous animals that are found in your area.

2. Explain what orienteering is.

3. Do the following:
   a. Explain how a compass works. Describe the features of an orienteering compass.
   b. In the field, show how to take a compass bearing and follow it.

4. Do the following:
   a. Explain how a topographic map shows terrain features. Point out and name five terrain features on a map and in the field.
   b. Point out and name 10 symbols on a topographic map.
   c. Explain the meaning of declination. Tell why you must consider declination when using map and compass together.
   d. Show a topographic map with magnetic north-south lines.
   e. Show how to measure distances on a map using an orienteering compass.
   f. Show how to orient a map using a compass.
5. Set up a 100-meter pace course. Determine your walking and running pace for 100 meters. Tell why it is important to pace-count.

6. Do the following:
   a. Identify 20 international control description symbols. Tell the meaning of each symbol.
   b. Show a control description sheet and explain the information provided.
   c. Explain the following terms and tell when you would use them: attack point, collecting feature, catching feature, aiming off, contouring, reading ahead, handrail, relocation, rough versus fine orienteering.

7. Do the following:
   a. Take part in three orienteering events. One of these must be a cross-country course.
   b. After each event, write a report with (1) a copy of the master map and control description sheet, (2) a copy of the route you took on the course, (3) a discussion of how you could improve your time between control points, and (4) a list of your major weaknesses on this course. Describe what you could do to improve.

8. Do ONE of the following:
   a. Set up a cross-country course that is at least 2,000 meters long with at least five control markers. Prepare the master map and control description sheet.
   b. Set up a score orienteering course with at least 12 control points and a time limit of at least 60 minutes. Set point values for each control. Prepare the master map and control description sheet.

9. Act as an official during an orienteering event. This may be during the running of the course you set up for requirement 8.

10. Teach orienteering techniques to your patrol, troop, or crew.
Orienteering Resources

Scouting Literature
Boy Scout Handbook; Fieldbook; Deck of First Aid; Emergency First Aid pocket guide; Be Prepared First Aid Book

Visit the Boy Scouts of America’s official retail website (with your parent’s permission) at http://www.scoutstuff.org for a complete listing of all merit badge pamphlets and other helpful Scouting materials and supplies.

Books


Videocassettes

Organizations and Websites
Canadian Orienteering Federation
Website: http://www.orienteering.ca

Orienteering USA
P.O. Box 1444
Forest Park, GA 30298-1444
Website: http://www.us.orienteering.org

U.S. Geological Survey
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: 703-648-5953
Website: http://www.usgs.gov
Orienteering Resources

Equipment Sources

A&E Orienteering
P.O. Box 443
Baldwin City, KS 66006
Telephone: 785-594-3516
Website: http://www.aeorienteering.com

Army Navy Sales
Website: http://www.armynavysales.com

Berman’s Orienteering Supply
23 Fayette St.
Cambridge, MA 02139
Telephone: 617-868-7416

The Compass Store
Website:
http://www.thecompassstore.com

Orienteering Unlimited Inc.
3 Jan Ridge Road
Somers, NY 10589-3007
Telephone: 914-248-5957
Website:
http://www.orienteeringunlimited.com

Scarborough Orienteering
3015 Holyrood Drive
Oakland, CA 94611
Telephone: 510-530-3059
Website: http://orienteer.com

Uncle Sam’s Army Navy Outfitters
Website: http://www.armynavydeals.com

U.S. Geological Survey
Topographic Maps

A local sporting goods store or bookstore may carry topographic maps of your area. You can also find local dealers in your state at the U.S. Geological Survey website, http://www.usgs.gov. Or send a postcard to the National Cartographic Information Center, 507 National Center, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA 20192.

Ask for a free topographic map index circular of your state. The index circular is a small map of the state divided into sections called quadrangles. Each quadrangle is a separate map. Find out which quadrangles cover the area in which you want to orienteer. Order the map by giving the name of the quadrangle and include a money order or check for payment. Send your order to Branch Distribution, U.S. Geological Survey, Box 25286, Federal Center, Denver, CO 80225.