

How to use the Orienteering Course

The purpose of this course is to assist Leaders in teaching orienteering skills to their youth. We have a variety of different courses already prepared to meet your youths' skill levels. We have the following 144 different courses to choose from:

1. 60 Three point courses
2. 24 Four point courses
3. 24 Five point courses
4. 6 Venturing courses
5. 30 GPS courses (in decimal degrees)

The following items are included on the web site:

1. A 1:7500 scale USGS map of the area. ($\frac{1}{2}$ " = 100 meters)
2. A map showing all 26 control point.
3. A chart with the Latitude and Longitude in decimal degrees or UTM Grid Coordinates of each control point.
4. A compass rose (protractor) which can be copied on transparencies and cut out.
5. A 300 meter pace count course is set up near the trail between the dining hall and the road.
6. Score cards to be printed out on card stock paper and cut into individual score cards.
7. An answer key to make it easy for recording scores.
8. A punch system which enables you to verify that they actually went to the point.
9. All control points look like #26 at the shelter.
10. Orienteering Merit Badge sample weekend program.

How can I use this information for my Troop or Crew outing?

1. Use the pre-made courses to teach basic compass and pace count skills. By looking at the answer key and control point map, a Leader can determine the difficulty level of that course.
2. Advance navigating techniques can be taught. Teach youths how to plot their course on the map by converting the GM angle from magnetic north to grid north. The start point is located in the northwest corner of the shelter located on the map. Have the youth use the compass rose (protractor) by draw the direction in grid degrees and measuring along that line the distance in meters and mark where the point should be. The youth can then use his plotted map on the course to determine the best possible route. They will find this method to be easier and it will improve their map reading skills. For more information click on the following website link and then click on "direction" and then "declination".

<http://www.map-reading.com>

3. Patrol Relays can be done by having the youth select from the pre-made courses. (Refer to the Orienteering Merit Badge book for details)

4. Score Orienteering can be done by using the control point sheet. (Refer to the Orienteering Merit Badge book for details)
5. GPS Course. Learn how to input coordinates into the GPS and use the pre-made courses already set up. Just print on card stock and use the answer key to record results, or make up your own course by using the chart. **Do not rely on GPS by itself, make sure the youth have a compass and map.** Garmin has a great manual online:

http://www.gps4less.co.uk/garmin/UsingaGarminGPSwithPaperLandMaps_Manual.pdf

6. Teaching UTM Grid will be the most rewarding for you and your youth. You can pinpoint your location on the map with the accuracy of 1 meter. This also works great with the GPS. I recommend the following websites for research:

<http://www.uwgb.edu/dutchs/FieldMethods/UTMSystem.htm>

http://geology.isu.edu/geostac/Field_Exercise/topomaps/utm.htm

<http://www.maptools.com/FreeTools/UTMtools.html>

<http://www.poly-electronic.ch/dok-gps/utm-ccordinates.htm>

7. The Orienteering Merit Badge sample campout program that will help guide you through the merit badge. You will still need to research the topic and use the merit badge handbook.

If you have any questions I will be glad to assist you, you can contact me at 812-663-6772 or 812-593-0942 or email me at rmeadows86@hotmail.com.

Rick Meadows