

Orienteering Badge



Orienteering is a sport which uses an accurate, detailed map and compass to find points on the terrain. It can be enjoyed as a walk in the woods or as a competitive sport and is a useful survival skill.

Otters: Do 4 requirements including the 2 starred.

- _____ 1.* Be able to explain what orienteering is.
- _____ 2*. In the field, show how to take a compass bearing and follow it.
- _____ 3. Explain how a compass works. Know the difference between true north and magnetic north.
- _____ 4. Learn what a topographic map is and how to read one.
- _____ 5. Participate in a string course. This is a course marked with a continuous string line. These courses are often used with very young children to give them familiarity with the forest.
- _____ 6. Play a game of directional Simon Says. Stand facing North and have Mom or Dad shout either "North", "South", "East", or "West". You must then turn and face the correct direction without use of a compass.

Dolphin: Do 5 requirements including the 2 starred

- _____ 1.* Complete Otter requirements 1,2, and 3.
- _____ 2.* Show how to orient a map using a compass.
- _____ 3. Describe the features of an orienteering compass.
- _____ 4. Be able to read a topographic map and identify at least 5 terrain features both on the map and in the field.
- _____ 5. Learn how to read the international control symbols sheet.
- _____ 6. Be able to identify at least 10 control symbols and tell their meaning.
- _____ 7. Take part in an orienteering event, or create your own.

Butterfly: Do 6 requirements including the 2 starred.

- _____ 1.* Complete Dolphin requirements 1,2, and 5.
- _____ 2.* Participate in at least one orienteering event, or create your own. Be able to show the route you took, how to read the control description sheet, and how you might be able to improve your time between control points.
- _____ 3. Explain what declination means and why it is important when orienteering.

- _____ 4. Show a topographic map with magnetic north-south lines.
- _____ 5. Show how to measure distances using an orienteering compass.
- _____ 6. Explain the following terms and tell when you would use them: control marker, attack point, collecting (or catching) feature, aiming off, point feature, contouring, handrail, fine orienteering, and safety bearing.
- _____ 7. Understand pace counting and why it is important in orienteering.
- _____ 8. Know the difference between a cross country orienteering event and a scored event.

Eagle: Do 7 requirements including the 2 starred

- _____ 1.* Butterfly requirements 1 and 2.
- _____ 2.* Set up a cross country orienteering course of at least 500 yards with at least 5 control markers. Prepare the master map and control sheet and be able to explain them to participants.
- _____ 3. Act as an official during an orientation. You are allowed to act as the official for your course in requirement 2.
- _____ 4. Teach orienteering skills to your troop or other youth.
- _____ 5. Explain the following terms and tell when you would use them: dog leg, star event, thumbing, reentrant, line event, and knoll.
- _____ 6. Participate in a cross country orienteering course.
- _____ 7. Participate in a scored orienteering course.
- _____ 8. Find out what organizations have competitive orienteering in your area.
- _____ 9. Learn the difference between traditional orienteering and the new GPS orienteering challenge of geocaching. If possible, participate in an actual geocaching activity.

Helpful Links:

U.S. Orienteering Federation:

<http://www.us.orienteering.org/>

How to read international control descriptions:

http://www.williams.edu/Biology/Faculty_Staff/hwilliams/Orienteering/clues.html