

HOW TO USE A COMPASS

The Parts of a Compass

- Compass needle – The red arrow is always pointing north.
- Compass housing – The circle can be turned and has 360 degrees around its outer edge.
- Orienting arrow – It is fixed to always point to N on the compass housing (which is not always north).
- Direction of travel arrow – It should always point straight ahead of you, in the direction you will travel.

Line Up the Compass

- Hold the compass flat on the palm of your hand with the direction of travel arrow pointing in front of you.
- Remember to hold the compass away from any metal objects.
- Turn the compass housing so that the orienting arrow and the direction of travel arrow line up and point in the same direction.
- Turn your body so that all three arrows (compass needle, orienting arrow, and direction of travel arrow) line up and point in the same direction.
- You are now facing north. North is both 0 degrees and 360 degrees on the compass housing.

Find Another Direction

- If you want to go west, find west on the compass housing (270 degrees).
- Turn the compass housing so that the direction of travel arrow lines up with west.
- Hold the compass flat on your palm.
- Turn your body until the compass needle (red) lines up with the orienting arrow on the compass housing.
- You are now facing west.

What is Orienteering?

Orienteering is navigating through unfamiliar terrain to find a series of natural or manmade features with the aid of a map and compass.

Orienteering is an international sport that offers fun, excitement, challenge, and exhilaration.

Events are organized not only by local Orienteering clubs but by schools, youth groups and camps.

Orienteering is generally done in a forested area, but may be carried out on any site which has been mapped.

