

Orienteering

Land Navigation In Seven Easy Steps

1. Find Your Location On The Map

- Identify major nearby features that are obvious on both the map and the ground.
- Match what you see on the map with the terrain and vice versa.
- The start of an orienteering course is marked with a triangle on the map

2. Orient The Map

- Rotate the map to correspond with the terrain.
- For example, a path or road will be parallel with the feature on the map.
- Features to your right or left will be right or left of your location on the map.
- Note that your compass needle is in line with the magnetic north lines on the map.
- Keep the map oriented at all times

3. Identify Your Destination

- Find its location on the map.
- The next control point of an orienteering course.

4. Face In The Direction Of The Destination

- Rotate your body, but keep the map oriented. (Map does not rotate relative to the ground.)
- Face the general direction, keeping in mind you may not depart in exactly that direction.

5. Choose a Route

- Adjust direction of travel if necessary.
- Follow line features (paths, streams, fences, utility lines, etc.).
- The straightest route is not often the best.

6. Pick Out Prominent Features Ahead

- First find a feature on the map.
- Then find the feature in the terrain (if it's in sight).
- Select prominent features along your route as intermediate objectives.

7. Proceed To Those Features

- Follow the chosen route.
- Use the terrain features (and the compass) to keep the map oriented.
- As you change direction, rotate the map to keep it oriented with the terrain.
- Navigate using the map. The compass is only a secondary tool.
- Keep track of your location at all times.

That's it — you are orienteering!

Continue from feature to feature, and from control to control, repeating the seven steps as appropriate.