

## ORIENTEERING

**Orienteering** is navigating space using a map and a **compass**. For today's activity, you'll need a compass, your journal, and a pencil. For those who purchased a camp kit, you'll find a compass inside. If not, you can purchase a compass at a hardware or outdoor goods store, or check on your mobile device. Most smartphones contain a built-in compass.



### **What is a compass?**

A compass has a wheel filled with fluid and a moving needle that is magnetic. When you are holding the compass level and still, the magnetic needle will always be pointing due north. There is also a wheel, or a **bezel**, with 360° markings.

On your compass, there is another arrow that points straight out from the front of the compass. This is often called the *travel arrow*. Using these tools on your compass, you can find out a lot about where you are and in what direction you are going. Learn more about using a compass [here](#).

### **So how can we use a compass to make a map of our own?**

1. First, we need to find north. Remember, the needle is always pointing north as long as you are holding the compass level and steadily.
2. Line up your compass. Every compass has a notch or a line underneath the "N" notation. Move the wheel or bezel so that this matches up with the the needle. Once you do that you can figure out where east, west, and south are.
3. Make a **compass rose** on your journal. A compass rose is a symbol that shows directions on a map. The easiest way to do this is to just line up the compass rose you make in your journal with your real compass. Then mark the directions out (N, S, E, W). The compass rose will be a marker of where you are standing.
4. Don't forget to double check!
5. Find items that are in due north, south, east, and west of where you are standing and indicate those on your map. Fill in the in-between areas with what else you can see.
6. Add color and more detail when you're back inside.

**STORM KING** | 60  
**ART CENTER**

**SUMMER CAMP**  
ANYWHERE

[stormking.org](http://stormking.org)

---

Key vocabulary words:

**Orienteering**  
**Compass**  
**Bezel**  
**Compass rose**