



CERT



NASSAU COUNTY

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NASSAU COUNTY EXECUTIVE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Using Your Compass with a Topographical Map

(Continued from last month)



Over the last three issues, we have become familiar with the different parts of a compass, its basic usage, and how to choose a compass. In this issue, we will talk about using your compass with topographical maps..

The art of navigation is crucial for anyone seeking adventure in the great outdoors. A compass and a topographical map are essential tools for finding your way, even when technology fails. In this article, we'll break down the basics of using these two instruments together, using easy-to-understand terminology to help you become a confident explorer.

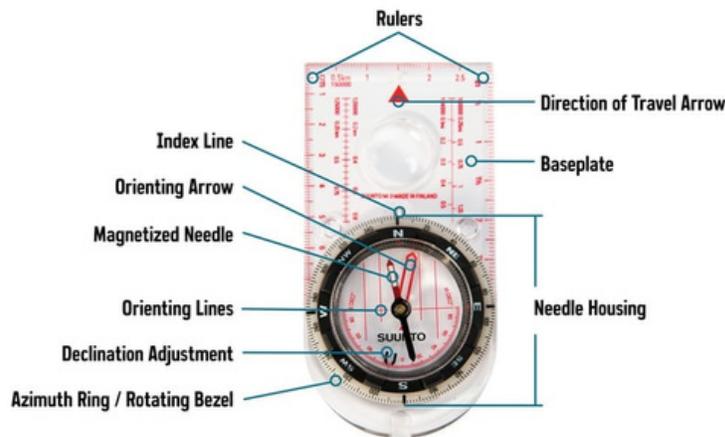
What You Need

Before we begin, you'll need a few items:

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COUNTY, STATE
&
FEDERAL
ONE TEAM



Example of declination for Acadia NP

1. A compass: Ensure that your compass is a baseplate compass, which includes a clear rectangular base and a rotating bezel (the circular, movable part around the compass needle).
2. A topographical map: This map provides detailed information on the terrain, including elevation, landmarks, and other geographical features.

Step 1: Understanding Your Compass

Your compass consists of several parts:

1. The magnetic needle: This needle (usually red and white) always points toward the Earth's magnetic North.
2. The baseplate: The clear, rectangular piece with rulers and scales used to measure distances on the map.
3. The rotating bezel: The circular part around the needle with degree markings, called the azimuth.
4. The orienting lines and arrow: These lines and arrow on the baseplate help align the compass with the map.

Step 2: Understanding Your Topographical Map

A topographical map offers detailed information about the terrain, including contour lines to represent elevation changes. The closer these lines are together, the steeper the terrain. Additionally, the map uses colors and symbols to depict different land features:

1. Blue: Water features, like lakes, rivers, and streams
2. Green: Vegetation, such as forests and parks
3. Brown: Contour lines and elevation points
4. Black: Man-made features, like roads, buildings, and trails
5. Red: Major roads and boundaries

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Step 3: Aligning the Map with the Compass

To align your map with the compass, follow these steps:

1. Find your location on the map.
2. Place your compass on the map so that the edge of the baseplate connects your location with your destination.
3. Align the orienting lines on the compass with the north-south grid lines on the map.
4. Rotate the compass bezel until the orienting arrow is pointing north on the map.

Step 4: Finding Your Bearing

Now that your map and compass are aligned, you can determine the direction you need to travel:

1. Read the degree marking on the compass bezel where it lines up with the index line. This is your bearing, expressed in degrees.
2. Hold the compass flat in front of you, with the direction of travel arrow pointing away from you.
3. Rotate your body until the magnetic needle is inside the orienting arrow (sometimes called "boxing the needle"). The direction of travel arrow now points in the direction of your destination.

Step 5: Following Your Bearing

With your bearing set, you can begin your journey:

1. Look in the direction your compass's direction of travel arrow is pointing and identify a prominent landmark, such as a tree or rock.
2. Walk toward that landmark, making sure to frequently check your compass to ensure you're still on course.
3. Once you reach the landmark, repeat the process until you arrive at your destination

Step 6: Adjusting for Declination

Magnetic north and true north are not the same. The difference between them is called declination, which varies depending on your location. To adjust for declination:

1. Find the declination value for your area on your map or by searching online.
2. If your compass has a declination adjustment feature.

This concludes the Compass series. I hope that some of you found this information helpful. R.D.

Word Find

E V A C U A T I O N E P O N S E R
M R E C O V E R Y P L A N S S T I
E S A P S I O N I T A R E P O O R
R A O M M E R G E N C Y I I S T E
G R C O M M U N I C A T I O N A C
E A N Y P R E P A R E D N E S S Y
N N H A Z A R D S T E F F E C T I
C L R I S K A S S E S S M E N T E
Y D E B R I E F I N G T S R E W Q
C O O R D I N A T I O N S S S S S

List of Words

- EMERGENCY
- RESPONSE
- PREPAREDNESS
- EVACUATION
- RECOVERY
- HAZARDS
- DISASTER
- MITIGATION
- RISK
- ASSESSMENT
- COORDINATION
- OPERATIONS
- COMMUNICATION
- DEBRIEFING
- PLAN
- RESOURCES
- TRAINING
- SAFETY
- ALERT
- INCIDENT

Good luck, and have fun finding these words related to emergency management!

Calendar of Events

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6 RACES Meeting 7:30pm	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4 RACES Meeting 7:30pm	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 Air Show	27 Air Show
28 Air Show	29	30	31			



CERT Division Meetings
7:00pm



RACES Meeting
7:30pm



Jones Beach Air Show

Important Dates

RACES Meeting - 7:30pm Thursday, April 6th



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