



How to use this Orienteering Course

February 2023

Purpose

This orienteering course was developed to create a resource for troops and scout leaders to instruct and compete BSA navigation requirements through the First-Class Rank. Further, the course and associated mapping could be used by scouts and orienteering merit badge counselors to fulfill certain requirements for the merit badge and be the foundation for the longer courses and events required to complete the badge. The mapping of RSR is extensive and could be used for larger-scale orienteering races as well.

Acknowledgements

Mapping of the site and course was created and provided by Rotary Scout Reservation by the Empire Orienteering Club in 2022. The Empire Orienteering Club's mission is to promote the sport of orienteering in and around Albany, New York. The Club offers race opportunities in the Capital District throughout the year. More information about the Empire Orienteering Club is available at <https://empoclub.org/>. The Club mapped this entry-level course to allow instruction of orienteering fundamentals and mapped the entire RSR site. The course was later field located and marked as part of a scout leader's Wood Badge Ticket in November 2022 (Class N3-364-21: Erik Deyoe, Owl Patrol).

How to use the course



First, the maps associated with this course are orienteering-style maps. Orienteering-style maps are used in races and are oriented to **magnetic north**. Consequently, no adjustments for declination are needed to use the maps with this course.

Here are some options for scouts to use the course:

- Simply follow the course from beginning to end. This option allows leaders and counselors to instruct scouts on the fundamentals of map reading, compass use, navigation, finding map features in the field, etc.
- Word Search Races. Each control point marker has two letters for use in word scramble games. These letters also provide confirmation that scouts found the control point. Sticking with either the upper right letter or the lower right letter will provide scouts with seven words to unscramble.
 - Run a race where scouts or small teams of scouts have time-staggered starts to find the control points and associated letters, and then unscramble the mystery word. Fastest time wins!
- Try it cross-country. Test your map and compass skills by completing the course out-of-order (cross-country vs. following the trail). This challenge will test scouts' skills in compass use and navigating with a map and compass. Use the letters on the control point markers to confirm scouts found the control point.
- Stretch it out! The mapping of RSR is extensive and accurate. Use the existing course as the foundation to build larger and more complicated courses with additional control points to challenge your scouts.

Have fun!!

Control Point Solutions						
Control Point	1	2	3	4	5	6
Upper Right	P	S	O	C	A	S
Lower Right	E	I	P	R	N	O
Control Point	7					
Upper Right	M					
Lower Right	E					
COMPASS						
PIONEER						