

Mini Orienteering Compass Game

The course for this game is laid in wooded territory by attaching a series of control markers to trees. Each control has its own identifying number, and the instruction card has the direction and distance to the next control.

It is best to have two people working together setting up the course. You can use a piece of paper or a paper plate as a control, and tack it gently or staple it to the tree. Do your best not to damage the tree and be sure to clean up after you are finished.

Place the start control on the first tree, and decide upon a compass bearing. Record the degree number. Using your compass bearing, measure the distance to another tree that can become your next control and record the distance with the compass bearing. Place a control, labeled with a random number (between 1 and 100) on the second tree (out of sight from the previous tree) and record. This helps to prevent the participants from just searching for a control or the next number in the series. Decide upon a new compass bearing. Using your compass bearing, measure the distance to yet another tree that can become your next control. Repeat the above process until you have twelve controls scattered among the trees along with the bearings and distances to each. Your recorded control numbers, bearings and distances will be your answer key which will become the basis for creating the instruction sheets for the participants.

The participants or teams are started at two-minute intervals, each with a compass, instruction sheet, and pencil. The one with the fastest time through the course wins. You can create a second, but opposite course by starting at the final marker and reversing the bearings between each marker. This is done by subtracting 180 degrees from each bearing. Anytime you get a negative number, subtract the absolute value of the negative number from 360 degrees to get your bearing. The distances between the markers will remain the same.

Sample Answer Key

Orienteering Course # 1							
	Bearing	Distance	Control #		Bearing	Distance	Control #
Start	64°	35 yds	35	Station 7	64°	75 yds	11
Station 2	349°	24 yds	66	Station 8	292°	47 yds	89
Station 3	262°	42 yds	02	Station 9	185°	56 yds	16
Station 4	345°	25 yds	59	Station 10	116°	36 yds	28
Station 5	56°	30 yds	75	Station 11	242°	31 yds	93
Station 6	154°	31 yds	32	Station 12	134°	37 yds	44

Sample Instruction Sheet

Orienteering Course # 1							
	Bearing	Distance	Control #		Bearing	Distance	Control #
Start	64°	35 yds		Station 7	64°	75 yds	
Station 2	349°	24 yds		Station 8	292°	47 yds	
Station 3	262°	42 yds		Station 9	185°	56 yds	
Station 4	345°	25 yds		Station 10	116°	36 yds	
Station 5	56°	30 yds		Station 11	242°	31 yds	
Station 6	154°	31 yds		Station 12	134°	37 yds	

Orienteering Course Template

Orienteering Course # 1							
	Bearing	Distance	Control #		Bearing	Distance	Control #
Start				Station 7			
Station 2				Station 8			
Station 3				Station 9			
Station 4				Station 10			
Station 5				Station 11			
Station 6				Station 12			

Below is an example of a mini-orienteeing course. It can be arranged at a Scout camp site or in a local park.

