

## Short Course

The orienteering course you are about to follow is mostly on interconnecting trails that will bring you back to the general area of the Environmental Learning Center and its parking lot. There are some short forays off trail included to make the course a bit more interesting. The course is just under five km long (three miles). You can shorten it by skipping a few of the most distant controls.

The object of orienteering is to navigate efficiently to a series of land features that are represented by numbered circles on a detailed topographic map. The land features you seek are described on the clue sheet below. The clue sheet contains both symbols and a narrative description of each feature.

A land feature can be any reasonably permanent, clear, and distinct object identifiable on the land or that identifies the type of landscape-a bridge, boulder, gully, stream, distinct tree, building, etc. To confirm that you have found the correct feature you will find an orienteering control marker at that feature. For this course, each control marker is a $4 \times 6$-inch metal plate with an opposing orange and white triangle on it. In one corner it contains a letter code that corresponds to an identical code on your clue sheet. This confirms that you are at the land feature you seek. Markers are on posts, buildings, or trees around eye level.

It is helpful to orienteer with a compass. Use it to orient (turn and rotate) your map to magnetic north as you plan your next move. But in general, the map contains more than enough information for you to navigate successfully from point to point even without a compass. Keeping in touch with your map (frequently examining the area of the map as you move along and seeing those features on the landscape around you) will typically keep you found.

| Jordan Creek |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| D |  |  |  |  |  |  | tart: |
| 1 | F | $\square$ | T |  | . $\llcorner$ |  | W outside corner of uilding |
| 2 | K | 上 | - |  | ர் |  | Top of stairway |
| 3 | C | , | , |  | $\rightarrow$ |  | end of path |
| 4 | G | 5 | F |  | $\dot{\Pi}$ |  | Top of stairway |
| 5 | N |  |  |  |  |  | Path junction |
| 6 | D |  |  |  |  |  | ath junction |
| 7 | H | u | U |  | ? |  | side of pond |
| 8 | P |  | 1, | 'Y |  |  | ath junction |
| $\bigcirc$ |  | 90 m |  |  | (O) |  | Navigate 90 m to finish |

## Hints:

- The start and finish are in front of the Environmental Learning Center building on the brick compass rose in the sidewalk.
- The parallel black arrows on the map all point to magnetic north.
- The trail leading to control \#3 is small and rather indistinct. It starts behind the bench by the bridge. The marker is on a tree near the east end of the trail overlooking a beautiful waterfall!

We hope you enjoy your experience! If you have questions about orienteering or our local club, go to www.neooc.com for more information.

