



This map and course were developed by Nat Schaffner as an Eagle Scout Service Project.

This file can be found at [www.freeholdtroop18.org/files/TSPOrienteering.pdf](http://www.freeholdtroop18.org/files/TSPOrienteering.pdf)

The official Turkey Swamp Park website can be found at [www.monmouthcountyparks.com/parks/turkey.asp](http://www.monmouthcountyparks.com/parks/turkey.asp)

## What is orienteering?

Orienteering is a sport of Scandinavian origin, involving navigation with a map and compass. The goal is to locate the control markers with the assistance of a magnetic compass and a topographic map.

Orienteering is an excellent way to stay active, have fun, and learn useful map-reading skills.

## How do I use this course?

There is no particular order that the markers must be found in, but there are two variants that have been planned out.

Both start at marker 1, which is located directly in front of the Turkey Swamp Visitor's Center Building, halfway between the parking lot and the building.

Both courses follow roughly a loop, and end at the first marker.

The longer is simple to follow: travel to each marker in numeric order: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 1. The path begins in a forested area, and then goes out into an open field. This is approximately three miles long, depending on how the open areas are traversed.

The easier path is primarily in the field area, and is optimal for younger children, as it is relatively short, and all participants remain in view, while

allowing the group to be spread out. The order of these markers is as follows: 1, 10, 9, 8, 12, 11, 1. This course is approximately two miles, and also varies based on how the open areas are traversed (following the borders of the field, as opposed to shortcutting through wooded areas). Controls marker locations are indicated on the map by a white and orange square, divided diagonally, and labeled with a number. The markers are mounted on brown wooden 4x4's, painted with a brown weatherproofing paint, and are approximately two feet tall. They are not located directly on trails, and may take a few moments to find, because they tend to blend in. This map has a few rudimentary markers you should become familiar with, including roads, open areas, forested areas, and water. The key on the map also gives compass directions, and the left and bottom borders are accurately gridded with latitude and longitude markings, for use with a GPS device, or other navigation methods. The map features will help you identify where a marker is, and the brown lines indicate contours in the land - where the ground slopes more sharply, the lines are closer together, and flat areas have very far-apart lines. The markers themselves are numbered as they appear in the map, but are also labeled with a letter, to verify that the correct marker was found. Once the course has been completed, everyone's letters should match up, to ensure that all the participants actually visited the markers.

## How do I use my compass?

Locate the starting point (marker 1) on the map. Now, hold the map flat in front of you, and turn it until the features you see on the map line-up with the features you see around you. This is called orienting the map. Another method is to place a compass on the map then rotate the map and compass together until the north end of the compass needle and the north arrow on the map point in the same direction. Once you have oriented the map, you can start to plan which trail and direction to take to your next orienteering marker. Make sure to keep the map lined up with the compass as you walk, so that you stay on-track. As you go, look for features around you that show you where you are on the map.

As you go, please remember to respect the natural wildlife, by staying on trails (where available) to prevent habitat destruction, not littering, and not harming any animals you may come across.

Have fun!

Errors or problems with the course should be reported to:

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