

Camp Michaels Orienteering Course

Leader Instructions

Completing this activity meets the orienteering requirement for First Class. The course is one mile long, and requires measuring both the height of a flagpole and the distance between two markers. A *prepared* Scout can do the activity in about one hour.

This course should NOT be a Scout's first map and compass activity. You must first teach how to use a compass to take and follow a bearing, how to orient a map, read a topographical map, and how to measure distances. All of this is found in the *Boy Scout Handbook*, but will need some hands-on teaching for a Scout to master. This course should be a fun and challenging way for a Scout to test his new skills.

Camp Michaels is private property of the Dan Beard Council. You MUST complete an "Application for Camp Usage" (see "Forms" section of the Council website) at least 72 hours in advance, and sign in with the Campmaster or Ranger to bring your Scouts to the course. You are welcome to use the course if your unit is camping at Camp Michaels. There is no charge to use the course.

Each Scout needs BOTH the course map and Scout instructions (which serves as an answer sheet). There are two maps of the course – choose either the full color orienteering map or the black & white topographical map. Print the map and instructions on opposite sides of a sheet of paper, and put inside a gallon zip-top bag for durability. Scouts will also need a pencil, a map compass, and their Boy Scout Handbook.

Start at the main parking lot. First have each boy read the "Scout instructions" fully. Confirm that each has all of the required materials. Buddy up the Scouts for safety, but insist that they each complete their own answer sheet. (Sending a more senior Scout as a buddy can work if the older boy will let the younger Scout work the course by himself.) Reinforce that part of their challenge is to use the map to find the easiest way between markers – often NOT along the direct bearing to the next marker. Ask the boys to find the cardinal points on their map, then on the ground, to demonstrate the detail and accuracy of the map. They set off independently to complete the activity at this point.

ANSWERS: Flagpole height: 33.5 feet

Marker letters 1-13: T E R N G W B O F P B H G

Distance between marker 12 and 13: 279 feet

Secret code – Have the scout write out the letters A thru M, then write letters N thru Z directly below the first line of letters. "A" translates to "N", N to A, B to O, O to B, etc. The marker letters spell out "GREAT JOB SCOUT" when translated.

THANK YOU

This course was conceived in 2003 by Pete Watkins. The initial layout and mapping was done by members of the Northern Kentucky Chapter of the Kentucky Association of Professional Surveyors, lead by Charles R. (Bob) Wilson, PLS, of BlueGrass Land Survey & Consulting LLC. KAPS and Troop 1 of Florence, KY, installed the control monuments in the ground. Markers on poles were installed by Pete Watkins with the assistance of Joseph Watkins, Craig Watkins, Steve Fitzsimons, Scott Swanson and Tim Iott. The course was formally dedicated July 19, 2003, and named the "Pete Watkins Camp Michaels Orienteering Course." The markers were fabricated and donated by Flaig Welding of Hebron, KY, and powdercoated by Custom Paint and Powder of Burlington, KY. In January 2006, Ron Reynolds renumbered the course. Bob Wilson produced the B&W topographical map of the course. The color orienteering base map was provided by Mike Minium and Orienteering Cincinnati. The final maps were produced by Ron Reynolds with help from Brittany Reynolds. The Ku-Ni-Eh Lodge of the Order of the Arrow provided monetary assistance for initial map reproduction. Please contact Ron Reynolds at (513) 553-3114 for any problems with the course.