

# Finding Your Way

It's no fun getting lost. That's why it helps to know how to read a map or use a compass. They are easy to use, once you learn how—which is what this badge is all about. Use a compass or a map to get you where you need to go!



## 1 Know Your Maps

There are many different kinds of maps. There are maps that show you travel routes, landmarks, or bus routes, and topographical maps that describe the terrain of a portion of land. Collect three different types of maps or charts that include the place where you live or an area you would like to visit. Be able to explain what kinds of maps they are and the information each gives about the area.

## 2 North, South, East, West

A compass is a tool that is used to help you find north, south, east, and west. Show that you know how to use a compass by:

- Explaining how to adjust a map for the difference between true and magnetic north.
- Taking a compass bearing from a map and following it.
- Sighting an object, walking to it, and returning to your starting point.



## 3 How Long and How Far

Maps can help you figure out how much time you will need to get to a specific place. This helps when you are planning a trip, whether it's a walk to the park or a drive to a relative's house. First you need to find out how far away a place is. Using the scale of your

map, figure out how many miles or kilometers it is to your destination. Now determine how long it would take to drive to this place. Don't forget to factor in some time to deal with things like traffic, terrain, and weather, etc. Check your calculations by using a map site on the Internet or ask an adult to look them over.

## 4. Walk the Distance

Find out how long it takes you to walk one mile (or kilometer) comfortably over fairly level ground. Then figure out how long it should take you to walk the distance between two points you have marked on your map. When calculating your walking time, don't forget to consider the type of terrain and your walking speed. (It usually takes longer to walk up hills than it does to walk on a flat surface.) Walk the distance and see if your estimate was correct.

## 5 Map Maker

Has anyone ever asked you how to get someplace? One way to help is by drawing a map. Draw a map of your route to school, to a shopping center, or to a favorite spot. Ask someone else to test your map by following it. Be sure to include a legend or key which explains the symbols you used and the compass directions.

## 6 Map of the Place

Maps aren't just for roads. Sometimes once you have arrived at your destination, you need a different kind of map to tell you where things are located at that particular place. For example, you may need a map of the inside of a local museum to find out where the dinosaur display is. Draw a map to scale of a specific place (a local park or inside your school), locating major landmarks and other important features. Include a legend or key, which explains the symbols you used, a scale, and compass directions.

## 7. Make a Model

Make a three-dimensional model of a portion of a topographical map to show contour intervals of the hills and valleys.

## 8. Finding Your Way Without Map or Compass

What would happen if you found yourself lost without a map or compass? Could you find your way back to safety? Learn how to look at the sun, the stars, and the nature around you to show you the way home. For example, to find which way is north, locate the North Star in the night sky or look for moss, which grows on the north side of a tree. Show your troop or group that you know how to find north, south, east, and west by using the sun, stars, and other natural signs. Describe to the group what natural signs lost hikers could use to find their way back to camp.

## 9 Trail Signs Traffic

One way to find your way while walking or hiking is by leaving trail signs. These are made by arranging rocks, grass, and sticks in a specific way to indicate a direction. Learn about as many different trail signs as you can. Use your knowledge of trail signs to set up a mini-trail in your backyard, park, or schoolyard. Teach the various trail signs to your troop or group and then set the group loose to follow your mini-trail. Perhaps you could include a hidden prize at the end of the trail.

## 10. Bus and Train Maps

Some maps don't list roads, they list routes—bus and train routes that is! Learn how to use a local bus or train map, or the bus/train map of a city you would like to visit. Choose a place within that city and map out how to get there using public transportation. Don't forget that some destinations require you to transfer onto another bus or train. If it is possible, with an adult, put your route to the test by taking the bus or train to your destination.



Danger



Danger



End of Trail



Keep Going



Wait here for directions



Turn around and go back



Split your group



Go eight steps this way



Turn right



Turn right



Turn right