

# Orienteering



USDA Forest Service

Hoosier National Forest

11/2010



Orienteering is a sport which tests your ability to navigate with map and compass between points. In cooperation with the Story Inn and [Orienteering Louisville](#), the Forest Service has developed an orienteering course south of Nashville, In.

This course includes control markers which allow you to verify your location as you go. Unlike many sports, orienteering requires very little equipment: a map and compass, and sturdy shoes should be all you need. Once you're competent with map and compass, orienteering courses can be laid out anywhere using natural terrain features. For beginners, however, an established course with markers allow you to have checkpoints along the route.

**Maps for the orienteering course can be obtained from the Story Inn or the Forest Service office at Bedford for \$2.14** (includes tax). If ordering from the Forest Service please make checks payable to ENFIA (Eastern National Forest Interpretive Association).

## Explaining the Orienteering Map

The map may be more detailed than other maps you have dealt with. The brown lines on the map are contour lines which connect points of the same elevation. This allows you to interpret in 3 dimensions; from reading the contour lines you can interpret the steepness of the slopes (where the contour lines are closest together) and location of the drainages, saddles, spurs, and depressions. If the contour lines are spaced far apart the land is relatively flat.

The map also includes a legend which defines other symbols used. On this particular map, white areas indicate it will be an easy area to walk through, light green

areas are brushy and slightly difficult, and dark green are quite difficult to navigate.. Yellow represents open areas.

As you navigate through the area, you will recognize obvious landmarks such as roads and streams. Be sure and notice how the curves and forks in these features also appear on the map. You can monitor your progress by closely comparing the map to the features on the ground and noticing how they are represented.

Use your compass to orient the map to the north. As you become more familiar with orienteering, you will use your compass to plot directions and distances (most compasses include a ruler along one edge).

To determine distance on the map, consider the map scale. You may want to lay out a short course of a known distance and walk it a few times to determine the length of your stride. By counting your strides you can keep track of your progress, as well as calculate how many paces you will need to go to reach the next control marker.

## The Course

The control markers consist of brown posts with a small red and white orienteering decals and a code number. An example is shown below. Control point #19 is at the south edge of a small parking lot and is a

### For More Information

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Relay for deaf and  
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Toll Free: 1-866-302-4173  
[www.fs.fed.us/r9/hoosier](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/hoosier)

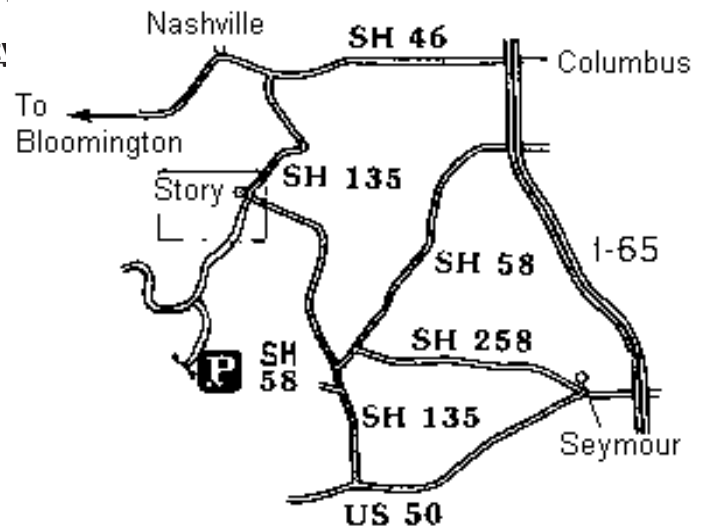
good place to begin. For novices, we suggest a short course of control markers #19, then on to #2, #7, #6, #13, #9, and then back to #19. This would give you a good feel for what to look for as you orienteer.

There are a total of 25 markers on the course. The list below indicates the code letters on each marker. It also list a location or description of each as well as the relative difficulty of finding it (1 is easiest, 3 is most difficult).

Control #	Code	Clue	Difficulty
1	AZ	Bottom of gully	3
2	BY	Trail junction	1
3	CX	Top of gully	2
4	DV	Bottom of spur	2
5	EU	West edge of forest	2
6	FT	Bend in trail	1
7	GS	Spur	2
8	HR	Spur	2
9	MH	Stream junction	1
10	JP	Root stock	2
11	KO	Bottom of spur	3
12	LN	Top of gully	3
13	MM	Trail junction	1
14	NL	Root stock	2
15	OK	Top of gully	2
16	FI	Root stock	1
17	QI	Bottom of bank	1
18	RH	West edge of forest	2
19	SG	Edge of parking lot	1
20	TF	Stream junction	1
21	UE	Top of gully	2
22	VD	Saddle	2
23	IQ	Root stock	2
24	PJ	Root stock	3
25	YA	Root stock	3

*In addition to your map and compass, we recommend you wear long pants and carry drinking water with you. Be sure someone knows where you are and when you should return. We hope you enjoy the sport of orienteering!*

### VICINITY MAP



*The USDA Forest Service is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*



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