

What Kind of Compass do I need for the Navigation Maps & Compass Course?

In preparation for the Map & Compass course we would like to offer some suggestions for purchasing a compass. Your compass is the tool that you will use to navigate through unknown terrain, so choosing one with some key features will help ensure your success. We do not expect you to "break the bank," but a good functional compass can be found for between \$25-\$50. There are many models that are more expensive but their additional features may not be of use to you at this point. Please avoid "saving money" by purchasing a \$5 dollar compass from the Dollar Store as it will usually fail before you get out of the classroom.

Key features:

- You will need a baseplate style compass (also known as an orienteering compass)
- The baseplate should be clear (so you can see the map through it)
- The baseplate should have several orienting lines inside the compass housing (parallel lines used to help align the compass on a map)
- The compass dial should be marked in numbered degrees, 0 - 360 (not just letters like N, NE, E, SE, SSE)
- The baseplate should have a "direction arrow" or "direction of travel arrow" marked on it

This photo below will give you a general idea of what a baseplate compass looks like. Yours does not have to look exactly like the photo.

