

Compass



A compass is a valuable camping tool. Knowing what direction you are going is important when taking trips.

If you look at a compass, you will see a needle with a red tip. The needle is magnetic and always points north. Around the needle is the compass housing. On it are numbers from 1 - 360. These are called degrees. They are used to tell what direction, or bearing, you are going.

How to Use a Compass

Let's say you want to go west. Turn the compass housing until 270 degrees is lined up with the direction arrow on the outside of the compass base. Now slowly turn your body until the compass needle is within the large orienteering arrow found inside the housing. Remember to keep the compass flat, and away from your belt buckle or other metal that attracts magnets.

Now that you are facing west, look ahead and pick out a land mark, such as a tall tree or a rock, that is in line with the direction arrow. As long as you walk towards that landmark, you will be heading west.

