

Saint John's Outdoor University Field Trip Overview

Orienteering

Objective: Students will learn the proper usage of a compass and how to find direction by taking a bearing with a compass. They will also understand the concept of measuring distance in feet by counting paces. Student will apply these new skills and use teamwork to navigate from point to point in the orienteering course in order to solve a riddle.

Field Experience:

Compass Demonstration: Students will observe the proper usage of a compass and practice identifying and using the pieces of the compass. Students will learn how to take a bearing in order to move in the right direction.

Pacing Practice: Students will understand the idea of a "pace" versus "steps", as well as the relationship between paces and distance in feet. Older students will learn how to convert distance in feet into distance in paces through division.

Orienteering Course: During this activity, students will work in pairs to navigate through various orienteering courses. They will take turns doing either the compass work or the pacing to the next marker. Students learn how to work together to reach a common goal and the importance of accuracy. Additionally, students will develop an understanding of direction and describing locations.

Alphateering: Students will test their new skills of taking a bearing and pacing by leaving a path of markers while following direction with their compass. After this, they must attempt to identify the shape left behind.

Key points covered in each class:

- History of Orienteering/Compass
- Making connections to other ways to tell directions
- The parts of a compass and how to use one correctly
- Difference between pacing/distance in feet/steps
- Understanding how to give directions as well as developing a better understanding of direction
- Develop the ability to describe a location and key landmarks to help give directions
- Develop attention for accuracy as well as developing patience
- Developing teamwork skills