

Wilderness Navigation

Olympia Mountaineers



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4/27/2025

Tonight's Schedule

- Introduction
- Maps and how to use them
- Magnetic declination
- Break
- Compasses and how to use them.



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What we're going to do in this course

INTRODUCTION



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Course Objectives

- Maps, types of maps, use of maps
- Magnetic declination adjustment
- Compass use
- Coordinate systems
- Terrain association and interpretation
- Use of GPS for Route Planning and Navigating



Course Schedule

- Lecture 1: April 1
- Lecture 2: April 3
- Lecture 3: April 14

All Lectures, 6:00 – 9:00 pm, Olympia Friends Meetinghouse

- Optional Workshop: April 16
Squaxin Park, Shelter No. 2, 5:30 – 7:30 pm
- Field Trip: April 26 or 27, 8:30 am ~ 4:00 pm
Kennedy Creek Natural Area, West Old Olympic Highway, Thurston-Mason line



Course Requirements

- Attend all three course lectures.
- Complete the field trip exercises successfully.
- Final test. Due May 9.



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Introduction to navigation

GENERAL NAVIGATION



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General Navigation

Navigation uses a set of tools to help you know where you are on the earth.

Five Tools Commonly in Current Use:

1. Map
2. Compass
3. Altimeter
4. GPS Device or Application, e.g., Gaia
5. Satellite Communication Device



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General Navigation

Combine those tools with:

- Sense of direction
- Awareness, observation
- Keep engaged as you travel
- Use all your senses
- Practice



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General Navigation

Directions

- Without a compass, use...
- Cardinal directions:
 - North = 0°
 - East = 90°
 - South = 180°
 - West = 270°



General Navigation

Geographic Positioning Devices

- Utilize the global positioning system (GPS)
- Very useful
- Still have to understand:
 - Maps
 - Compass use
 - Terrain recognition
 - Route planning



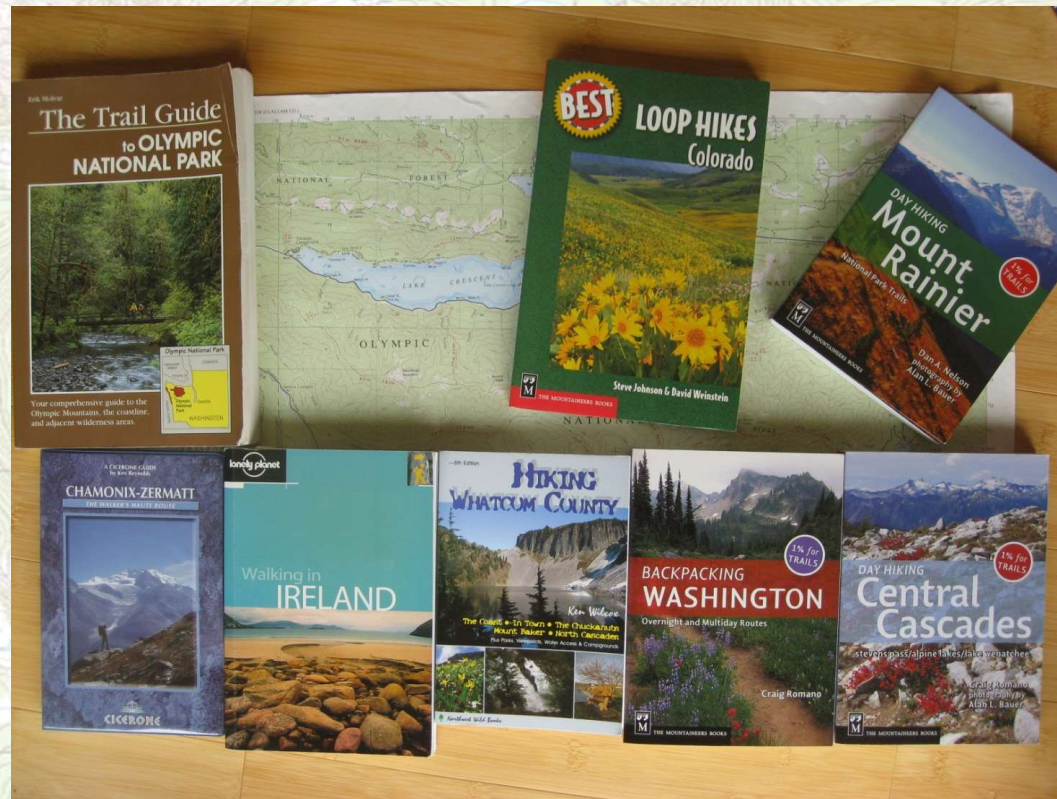
General Navigation

Altimeter

- Very useful for checking progress and pin-pointing location
- Have to regularly check and calibrate
- Changes opposite of barometric pressure



Plug for our Library



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