WELCOME!!!

The USGS maps contain a wealth of information.  Knowing how to use this information can unlock the world of the outdoors.

We invite you to get started right away:

1.)  Get your Index and Baring **maps** out.

2.) Have your **pencil**, ready to go.  If you don't have a pencil, borrow, borrow, borrow – or ask at the front desk.

3.) Get ready to **draw the UTM grid system** on your Baring map using the blue tick marks.  There are instructors floating around who will show you how to do this.

4.) Get your **compass** out. Can you see the declination adjustment? We'll help you set it to 16 degrees East at the Compass Check table before the class.

5.) **Introduce yourself to those at your table**.  Your group may be together the rest of the evening, so get the introductions started right now – e.g.,  "Hi I'm_____ and I'm taking this class because_____" is a good way.
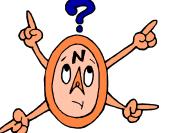
6.) Snag an instructor to check out your **Pre Trip Plan assignment**, ask any questions you have about it.

7.) If you have time to start looking over the information on your problem set on the **page about UTM**, you will be ahead of the game.

8.) Trot over and look at the '**Mt Blob' exhibit** against the wall.  This exhibit takes the 3-D mountain and represents it on a 2-D map.  It gives a great illustration of Ridges and Valleys.   If you think you understand this concept completely, go over it with someone from your table – and start introducing them to the idea.

At 7:00, our Day Lead will begin with some general info that everyone needs to know, particularly about the upcoming field trip.  After this brief introduction, your instructor(s) will appear.  In general, there are 2 instructors per table.  The first 30-45 min will combine an illustrated talk and practice in basic map and compass skills, followed by group and then individual work on a problem set to put these skills to work.

And, by all means, remember this is a club and the volunteer instructors want to have a fun evening too!!!  We are going to learn lots, and we are going to have fun in the process!!