

The orienteering course you are about to follow is mostly on interconnecting trails that will bring you back to the general area of the Nature Center and its parking lot. There are, however, some short forays off trail included to make the course a bit more interesting. So you should be prepared for that, if you decide to venture off trail at your option. The course is approx. (6.1 km or 3.7 miles) in its entirety. This is rather long as well as hilly for a beginner level course of its type, so feel free to attempt just a portion of it if your time or fitness level will not allow you to complete it all today.

The object of orienteering is to navigate efficiently to a series of land features that are represented on a detailed topographic map. Marked as numbered circles on the map. The land features that you will seek are described for you on a *clue sheet*, which you see illustrated below. The clue sheet contains both symbols and a narrative description of the feature, but typically it only provides symbols. A land feature can be any reasonably permanent, clear and distinct object identifiable on the land or that identifies the type of landscape –a bridge, boulder, gully, stream, field, building, etc. To confirm that you have found the correct feature you will find an orienteering *control* marker at that feature. For this course, the control marker is a 4x4 inch square plate that contains an opposing orange and white triangle on it. In one corner it also contains a two letter code that coordinates to an identical code on your clue sheet. This confirms that you are at the land feature that you sought. Some are on posts. Others are above head height on trees.

It is helpful to orienteer with a compass, use it to orient (turn and rotate) your map to magnetic north as you plan your next move. In general, maps contain more than enough information that allows you to navigate successfully from point to point, even without a compass. Keeping in touch with your map – meaning, frequently examining the area of the map as you move along and seeing those features on the landscape around you – will typically keep you found. And that is always a good thing.

Brecksville All Seasons Course				
3.7 miles - Version 2020				
Anytime Permanent	6.1 km			
				Start: building
1 YA				S side of building
2 XA				Beneath bridge at trail ditch crossing
3 RA				Boulder cluster
4 FA				N end of suspension bridge
5 AA				Upper part of reentrant
6 QA				Path junction
7 JA				Upper part of reentrant
8 BA				Upper part of reentrant
9 GA				SE end of bridge
10 DA				Boulder cluster
11 LA				Path junction
12 VA				Boulder cluster
13 KA				SW end of path at vegetation boundary junction
14 TA				Path junction
	300 m			Navigate 300 m to finish

Hints:

1. A re-entrant is a place where flows. It is larger than a ditch or gully.
2. Control marker 2 is mounted on the side, near the ground, of a low, small, pallet-like BRIDGE with no handrails.
3. Control marker 4 is on a small Suspension Bridge
4. Going from 11 to 12, use the Bridle Path to the NW and up the hill, then at the top, use the small trail to the west to travel along the top of the ravine. Avoid the very dense field to the north of 12.

We hope you enjoy your experience! If you have questions about orienteering or our local club, go to <http://www.neooc.com/> or email us at contact@neooc.com.

North Eastern Ohio Orienteering Club