

BOY SCOUT TROOP 480 COMPASS AWARD PROGRAM

The adult leaders of Boy Scout Troop 480 believe that all Scouts should be proficient in the use of a compass. Therefore, effective in Fall 2018, a Compass Award Program has been implemented. The goal of the Compass Award Program is to encourage each Scout to become proficient in the use of a compass. When each Scout has done so, he will be awarded a personal compass at the annual Winter Court of Honor.

The demonstration of proficiency can be achieved by a Scout successfully completing at least one of the following:

- 1) A Compass Course, where there are 15-20 paper cups positioned on a pre-set course. The preferred location of the course is in an open wooded area. The cups are located by following compass headings and walking distances that are reset at each cup. Successful completion of the course will be achieved by locating all cups on the course leading to the last cup on the course, and presenting a correct list of the Cup # and Word Clue provided on a paper tag at each cup.
- 2) A Compass Course (or Game), where 20 numbered tags are attached at 5 foot intervals to a straight 100 foot long rope, or Base Line, oriented East-West. The preferred location of the course is in an open field. Each Scout will begin the Game at a numbered tag on the rope, then following three (3) different compass headings and walking distances as defined on a Game Card. These course settings will return the Scout to a new numbered tag (sometimes the same numbered tag) located on the Base Line. Successful completion of the course will be achieved when the Scout returns to within +/- 1 of the correct tag number on the Base Line for the course that he followed. More than one attempt is OK.
- 3) The Orienteering Merit Badge.

In the first two (2) cases, successful completion of the Compass Course or Game will be a direct result of:

- 1) The Scout's ability to accurately establish the length of his normal walking stride, and;
- 2) The Scout's ability to accurately follow the specified compass headings at each course correction point.

HINT: It is best to find a fixed point across the course on the specified compass heading, and then walking the specified distance toward it. If you are looking down at your compass while walking you will most likely wander off course. Wandering a few degrees off the specified heading is all it takes to miss the target.

All Scouts are also encouraged to become proficient in the use of a compass in conjunction with a topographic map, and familiar with the various map symbols.