

How to Use a Compass



Bearings range from 0° to 360°, where 90° is East, 180° is South, 270° is West, and 360° (or 0°) is North.

1. Rotate the compass housing until the direction-of-travel arrow lines up with the bearing you want.
2. Hold the compass flat in front of your stomach so that you are looking down at it. Turn your body until the north end of the magnetic needle lines up with the north end of the orienting arrow in the center of the compass. (Scouts like to refer to this as “putting the dog in the doghouse.”)
3. Travel in the direction that the direction-of-travel arrow points.