Introduction to Map and Compass

Parts of the Compass:

Baseplate (note direction of travel arrow, sides parallel, measuring rules)
Bezel (marked in 2° increments 0-360°)
“Red Shed” And Meridian Lines
Magnetic Arrow (point out which end points to Magnetic North)

How to Take Magnetic Bearings:
How to hold compass in relation to body
“Red in the Shed”

Magnetic and True North:
Hemisphere Drawing (Compass is a Protractor, Measures angles between objects and Magnetic North)
Declination is angle between Magnetic and True North.
“Map to Compass = Add”
“Compass to Map = Subtract”
“Compass (Big Picture) to Map (Little Picture) = Subtract”
“Map (Little Picture) to Compass (Big Picture) = Add”

Map Features:

Latitude/Longitude
UTM grid
Name and Adjacent Maps
Date
Key to Map (Road Legend, Map Symbols, Buildings)
Declination
Distance Scale
Colors (green = forest, white = clearings, blue = water)
Topographic Lines (Contour Lines)-Elevation difference between.
Reading topo lines (map view to profile view)
Ridges, Saddles, Drainages, Cliff Bands, Peaks

How to take bearings from map to compass.
How to take compass bearings to map.
Orienting Map (Dial in declination).
Triangulation.
“Shoot to Miss”
Bowdoin Outing Club Orienteering Course

This course is designed for the practice of map and compass skills. Remember to always dress appropriately for a day in the woods according to the season and weather, and bring some water and a snack!

Sometimes you will need to use your compass to take and then follow a bearing between points; sometimes you will need to identify features of the landscape using your map. Some of these points are located on identifiable geographic features, others are not. Use all of the tools available to you.

Sometimes it will be most efficient to stay on the path and then get off, other times the path will only lead you astray. Watch for things like footprints, game trails and geographic features—what can these things tell you about traveling through the woods?

Congratulations! You are about to become an AWESOME orienteer! (yes, it is a verb and a noun)
You have been assigned one of the routes below (see backside). Please review the points on the map, make a plan, and be clear with your group members about the plan. Remember to make sure everyone has a chance calling the shots—how will you get from one point to the next? Be safe and have fun!

Route 1
Kiosk → A → C → D → F → I → O → P → Barn

Route 2
Marine Lab → P → D → G → H → J → L → M → Barn

Route 3
Barn → N → M → K → H → G → C → B → Barn

Route 4
T Lab → P → N → O → I → L → J → G → Barn

Route 5
Marine Lab → N → H → K → L → G → F → Barn

Route 6
T Lab → D → B → A → P → N → O → H → G → Barn

Route 7
Kiosk → B → D → F → O → M → K → I → G → Barn