

WILDERNESS NAVIGATION

This two-day navigation course is meant to introduce you to some of the core skills of wilderness navigation as well as how to efficiently use our modern-day tools such as a GPS and smartphones to assist in our day-to-day navigation and trip planning.

Whether you would like to plan a multi-day hike or hope to venture out for some backcountry skiing missions, knowing how to properly navigate in the mountains and making sure you stay on track is key. Being a good navigator takes both time and practice and, in this course, we will focus on making sure you get the theoretical know-how as well as hands-on opportunities to practice outdoors.

DAY 1 - GOING ANALOG

On our first day we will start out in the classroom with topics such as reading a map, compass use and how magnetic declination plays an important role in navigation. Knowing how to use a map and compass is an essential skill and will help set us up for using our more modern tools more efficiently. After lunch we will move the classroom outside and practice things like shooting a bearing, how to orient our maps and how to use resectioning to find our position.

Learning Objectives

- Map Symbols & Scales
- Map Features & Interpretation
- Grid Systems and Grid References
- Magnetic Declination
- Compass Use
- Resectioning
- Handrailing & aiming off
- Basic Route Planning

DAY 2 - NAVIGATION IN THE 21st CENTURY

Our second day will focus on some of the more modern tools available to us to assist with our navigation. We will go over the use of a GPS as well as a few different apps that are fast becoming the new normal. We will also delve into more advanced route planning, using Google Earth and other satellite imagery. The afternoon will once again be a more hands-on segment spent outdoors, practicing with our phones as well as troubleshooting some common problems and user errors.

Learning Objectives

- GPS & Smartphones
- Phone Apps & Settings
- Programming Waypoints
- Tracking your day
- Accessing topographic maps online
- Troubleshooting your devices
- Route planning with Google Earth
- Navigating using your GPS or smartphone