

Orienteering – An Overview

Orienteering is classified as the sport of navigation, encompassing events that occur using a map and compass on unfamiliar terrain. Generally taking place as a timed event, participants are tasked with navigating through a series of checkpoints using their orienteering skills to complete the course in an accurate and timely manner.

On this course, you will be tasked with finding the 5 checkpoints in order, to find the hidden word that is spelled out on the posts. This can be done using a variety of methods, whether it be by simply following the physical map, using a compass to orient your way through the course, or by using the online version of the map to follow your progress through the course.

Step 1: Orient the Map

Before beginning the orienteering course, the first step is to find where you are on the map. The easiest way to do this would be to locate the main building near the parking lot and the bathrooms. From here, follow the trail system North towards the START post, which is where you will begin the orienteering course.



Step 2: Determine a Plan

Once you arrive at the START post, the next step is to plan how to get to the next post, labelled 1 on the map. This can be done by looking at the trail system and determining the best method of getting to the checkpoint. All checkpoints are labelled with numbers on the map, so ensure that you are finding the checkpoints in the correct order.

Step 3: Find the Post

Once you have determined a plan of how to get to the corresponding post, you can begin making your way to the checkpoint. Along the way, ensure that you are going the correct route by checking for features on the map as you pass them. These features may be any recognizable objects that are in the map key, such as benches, bathrooms, etc. Additionally, as you begin to near the checkpoint, look for any features that are near to the checkpoint on the map to help determine the exact location of the post. It is important to stay on designated trails.

Step 4: Write it Down

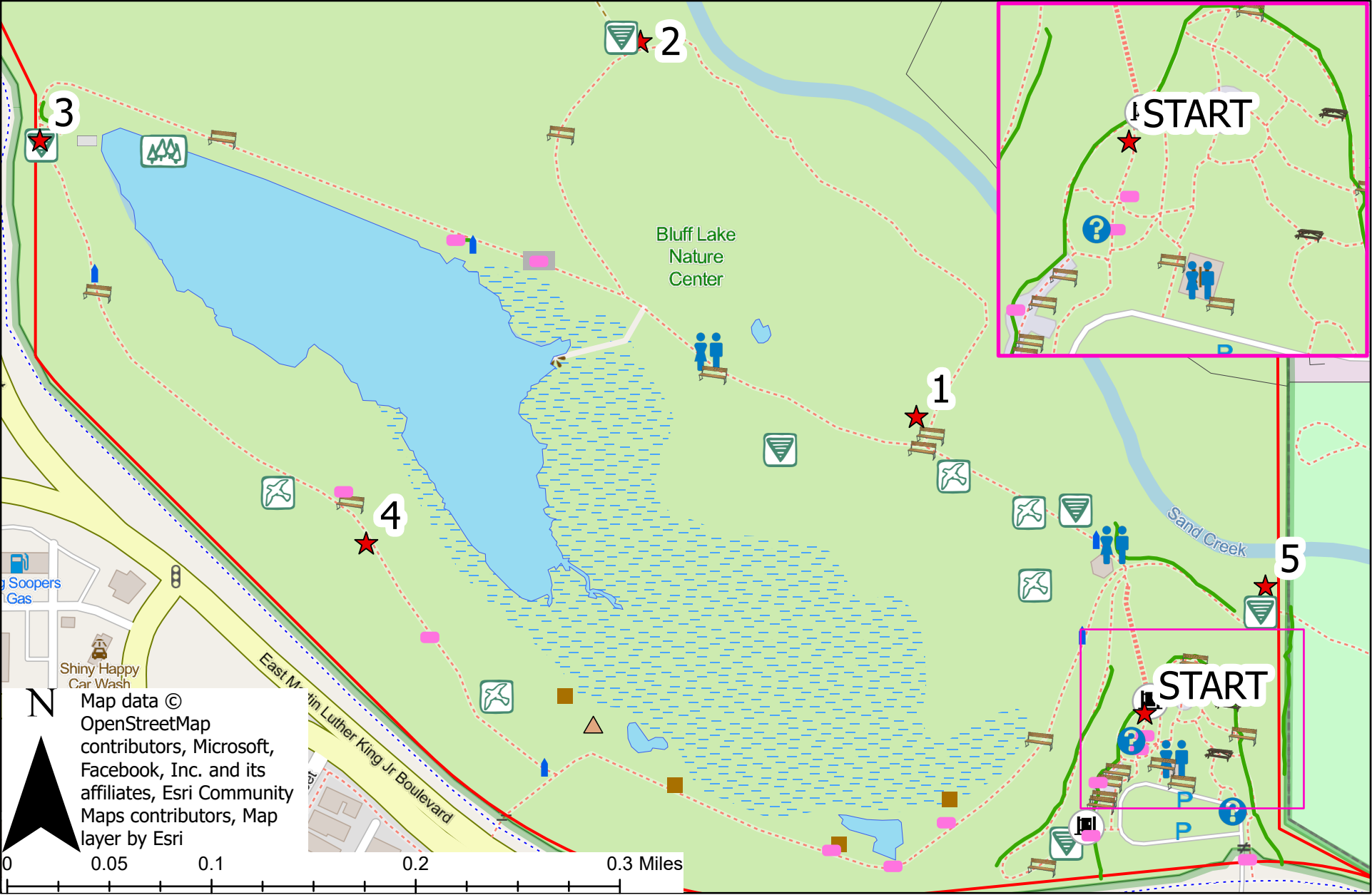
Once you find a post, each post will be marked with a distinct letter. These letters will help to find the hidden word that is spelled out on the posts if the posts are found in the correct order. To keep track of the letters, write the letter in the box corresponding with the number given to the post on the map. Repeat these steps until you have reached all 5 of the posts and discovered the hidden word. Have fun and enjoy learning about the sport of orienteering.

1	2	3	4	5
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Step 5: Be Observant

Write down the plants, animals and birds that you see along the course.

Bluff Lake Nature Center Orienteering Map



Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, Microsoft, Facebook, Inc. and its affiliates, Esri Community Maps contributors, Map layer by Esri

0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 Miles



- ★ Orienteering Post
- ♣ Mile Marker
- ❓ Kiosk
- 📍 Sign

- 🪑 Bench
- 🍷 Picnic Table
- 🚪 Gate

- 🐦 Bird Box
- 🦇 Bat Box
- 🌳 Submerged Trees
- 🌿 Shade Structure

- 🏠 Concrete
- 🎡 Play Area
- 🚻 Bathrooms
- 💧 Water

- 🏢 Buildings
- 🌿 Fence
- 👤 Trails
- 🔴 Property Boundary

Prepared by: Claire Fontenot & Erickson Smith
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 Map Datum: WGS 1984
 Projection: UTM Zone 13N