HOW TO DESIGN AN ORIENTEERING COURSE
USING THE PERMANENT ORIENTEERING MARKERS

The Orienteering Maps of Woodland Trails Scout Reservation and Cricket Holler Training center have symbols where the permanent orienteering controls are located. There is a master map that numbers the controls. These numbers are only for identification purposes. Beginning at one and going to the end would not be a good orienteering event.

The master clue sheet for each camp gives a written clue and the “international orienteering clue symbols” for each of the numbered controls. It also gives the alphabetical letter that is welded on top of each permanent orienteering control. This clue sheet can be obtained from the Miami Valley Orienteering Club.

Course design is:

- Determining where you want to begin and end your orienteering course. Usually this is your camp site or a nearby location.
- Determine how long you want your course to be. One mile is approximately 1600 meters.
- Determine the number of the permanent controls along the route you have selected.
- Use the number to find the clue on the clue sheet and list them in order.
- Number the controls 1 to ?, according to how many you use in your course.
- Design a score sheet each participant can use to note the alphabetical letter on top of each permanent control on the course.

One good way to design the course is to get a string that is the length you want your course to be. Note that you can use the map scale to determine how many inches of string you need to equal 1 mile (= 1,600 meters), or more. Knot the string and place the knot on the start/finish location. All you need to do is locate the permanent controls with-in close distance to your string circle and circle them. Draw a line from each control to the other in the order you plan your participants will run the course. Number the controls in order. Go to the clue sheet and note the clue for each of the controls you are using and prepare the participant score sheet. Your course is designed. Note that most “First Class Rank courses” are in the center of camp and not very difficult.