



COMPASS ROSE

In continuation to the Tracking Signs sessions in the Bronze Arrow, in the Silver Arrow the cubs will learn about the Compass Rose, which will lead them to the Compass and Mapping session in the Gold Arrow.

A compass rose is a drawing on maps, or a graphic (picture) on digital devices (e.g. GPS) that displays the orientation of North, South, East and West.

There are several ways to remember the Compass Rose in Maltese. For example the sentence: "Toni, Goli u Lina Xtraw Nofs Lira Pastizzi Maħruqin," going clockwise starting from Tramuntana. The Cubs may know others.

There are also several ways of finding North without a compass.

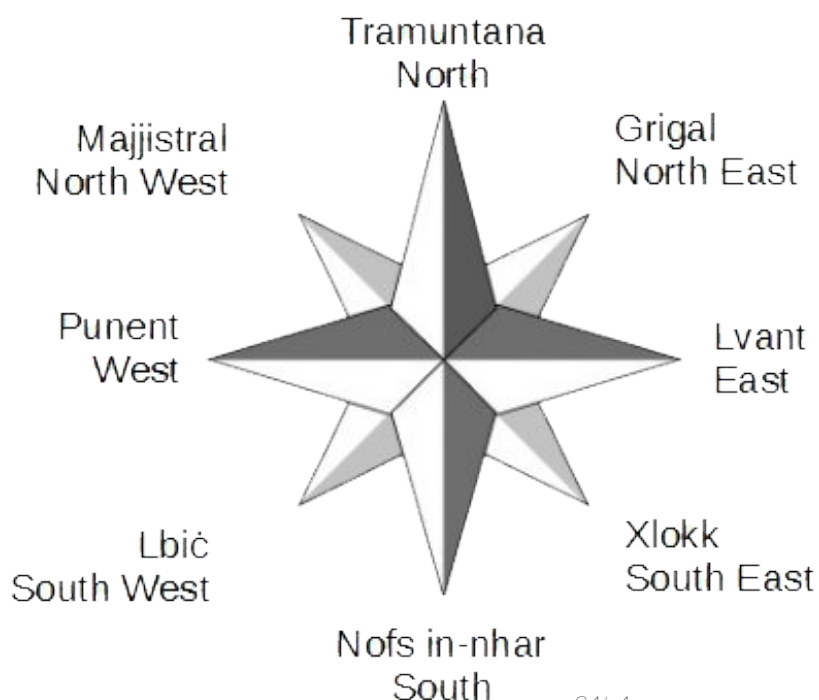
<http://www.wikihow.com/Find-True-North-Without-a-Compass> has several methods, some more advanced than others. Simpler ones include:

1. During the day, measuring the length of the shadow of a stick every so often. The shortest length points towards North, because in Malta, the sun is in the South.
2. During the night, use the Ursa Major (Big Plough) constellation to find the North Star.
3. Another interesting method is to look for a TV satellite dish. In Malta, these always point towards South, because the satellites orbit the Earth over the Equator, which is South of Malta.

Difference between True North, Grid North and Magnetic North:

- True North is at the North Pole;
- Grid North is North when looking at a map;
- Magnetic North is the direction the compass points to.

They are not at the exact same position, which is an important point to keep in mind when doing Compass and Mapping in the Gold Arrow and Orienteering in the Troop.



S16.1



ACTIVITY FACT SHEET



Activity: Human compass



Objective: Give the cubs the opportunity to practice while learning the Compass Rose



Time: 30 minutes



Outline: First discuss with the cubs the compass rose, what are its uses and where it can be found. Have maps, GPS (if possible), there is also a compass rose app for the mobile phones.

Then spread the Cubs apart, and tell them that a particular direction is North (eg, a wall behind you). You have to call out a direction, and the Cubs have to turn on the spot and point towards the direction you called, in relation to North. You can mix Maltese and English, and eventually start speeding up.



Equipment: None



Place: Group HQ



Group Size: Arrow Group



3rd Parties: N/A



ACTIVITY FACT SHEET



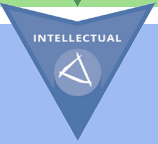
During the Activity:



– If some Cubs know the subject already, they can help the others.



– Running during the game.



– You can provide them with the opportunity to try out the methods for finding North during a Camp, since you can do the shadow methods over the duration of a day. You can also show them the watch method during a hike, for example. After finding North using these methods, you can then check their accuracy using a compass.



– Have the Cubs come up with different scenarios where the compass rose can be used in real life. They can also role play them. For example, captains, pilots, etc. In a different activity a story that the Cubs were in an airplane that crash landed can be used, along with many other survival skills like building a fire, first aid, etc. The Cubs would need to find their bearings.



– A compass helps us find the way. How do we try to find our way Spiritually? Do we help others find their way?

