Orienteering

Equipment

* One compass for each group of students (two, three, or four members each)
* One copy per group of the Orienteering Short Course form
* Three index cards per group, each bearing a character-education focus word
* Writing implement for each group

Starting Position

Students are gathered in groups of two to four, and some members are assigned to the specific roles of compass manager, pace manager, and scribe. Students are ready to plan and construct a short orienteering course.

The Challenge

Once the students have developed compass skills, each team plans and builds a short orienteering course and plots its course on the Orienteering Short Course form.Once the course is complete, the group returns to the central area. After all of the groups have returned, have the groups swap forms. Every group works to follow the course directions it received during the swap. Each time a group reaches a landmark, its members remove the card and note the find on the form. Once a group collects all three cards in the course, its members return to the central location.

Rules

1. To make the courses manageable, the distance to each landmark should be no more than 150 paces.

2. Group members are assigned to fill the roles of compass manager, pace manager, and scribe. Students rotate responsibilities after reaching each landmark so that each student has a chance to become familiar with all responsibilities. In a four person group, the students may not get to all of the responsibilities in both the construction and the following of a course.

3. Before leaving the area, account for all items used; this should be accomplished automatically if all groups successfully follow the courses indicated. However, if a group is unable to find a certain landmark, it may need help from the group that created the course.