Orienteering is a recreational and competitive sport for people of all ages. It involves finding your way through unknown terrain with a map and compass. Using a detailed topographic map as your primary tool, and a compass to stay oriented, you try to select and follow the best route between specified points.

Orientering on permanent courses is done at your own risk. Neither OLOU nor the property owners/managers assume any liability for any loss, damage, injury or death which may occur.

Course Permanent Course, Length 3.4 km
Start
1. A1 Trail Junction
2. A2 Rootstock
3. A3 Big Tree
4. A4 Pond, NE Side
5. A5 Cairn
6. A6 Creek Junction
7. A7 Depression, Power Line Crossing
8. A8 Car Door
9. A9 Cairn
10. A10 Pond N Side
11. A11 Rootstock
12. A12 Utility Box, East Side
13. A13 Gully, West End
220 m from last control to finish. No tapes

An Orienteering Map of Taylorsville Lake State Park
Scale - 1 : 10 000
Contour Interval - 5 meter
Permanent Orienteering Course at Taylorsville Lake State Park

Orienteering
Orienteering is a fun outdoor activity that tests your ability not only to read a compass and a map, but also to relate features on the map to features on the ground to determine the fastest way to get from point A to point B.

The Map
In orienteering, the map is more important than the compass. The map gives you information about the terrain that can help you find the trails, streams and vegetative edges, which can be easier to cross.

All orienteering maps that follow International Orienteering Federation standards use the same five colors.

- Brown lines represent elevation contours.
- Greens (including white) show vegetation density.
- Yellows represent clearings.
- Blue signifies water.
- Black marks the location of manmade objects as well as rocks and boulders.

The Course
The permanent course at Taylorsville Lake State Park has a start and a finish with a series of “controls” in between – physical features in the landscape that you need to visit along the way in a certain order. Each control is marked with a brown post with a two to three-digit letter/number.

The start and finish for this course is located just south of the park’s shelters, across the road. There are no controls north of the park road.

The course is a sequence of numbered purple circles. The feature that has the control will be at the center of the circle on the map.

The course should be done in order from the start (purple triangle) to control 1, all the way to control 13, and then to the finish (purple double circles) which is the same place as the start.

Taking a compass bearing and traveling in a straight line isn’t always the best choice. Use the map to determine the easiest route to the next control by using trails and open clearings to guide you. Take note of the terrain’s features as you pass them and verify that they correspond to your location on the map.

At the bottom of this map is a Clue Sheet that will list what the feature is that you are looking for. The two or three-digit number corresponds to the number on the post.

Instruction videos are available at www.orienteeringlouisville.org/orienteering-101

Safety Notes
Before you set out, in addition to the map and a compass, make sure you bring water, sunscreen and bug spray. It is a good idea to wear long pants and gym or hiking shoes.

- Know your physical limitations.
- Dress for current and changing weather conditions.
- Carry a whistle (emergency signal is 3 long blasts). Courses are NOT monitored.
- Do the course with a partner.
- Inform someone of where you will be and when you expect to return.

Orienteering on permanent courses is done at your own risk. Neither OLOU nor the property owners/managers assume any liability for any loss, damage, injury or death which may occur.

On the remote chance that you become hopelessly disoriented, don’t panic. Use your compass and take a Safety Bearing due north until you arrive at the park road.

For additional information, please visit the Orienteering Louisville club at www.olou.org