# Online Class Coming Soon 3/16/24

**Subject: Olympia Navigation Course starting soon**

Welcome to the Olympia Navigation Course for 2024.

The Olympia Basic Navigation Course instruction starts on April 1. There are two online courses, Map and Compass and GPS, which you’ll complete in April. Map and Compass starts on April 1 and you have until April 22 to complete it and the GPS course starts on April 16 and runs until May 6. Aside from optional workshops (more on those later), there are no scheduled meetings during that time. You work on the online classes on your own schedule, so you can arrange the study around your work, home, school, and other obligations. You will need reliable internet connectivity and at least a tablet-sized screen to do the work. A phone won’t cut it.

Your task for March is to make sure you have all you need to complete the classes:

* A qualifying **compass** (see below).
* The **book** ”Wilderness Navigation,” 3rd edition, by Burns and Burns (buy from [Mountaineers Books](https://www.mountaineers.org/books/books/wilderness-navigation-3rd-edition-finding-your-way-using-map-compass-altimeter-gps-1)).
* The **USGS Baring quadrangle**. Paper is better (buy from [Mountaineers Books](https://www.mountaineers.org/books/books/usgs-baring-index-map) or [USGS Map Store](https://store.usgs.gov/product/105315)), but you can download a PDF from the [USGS Map Store](https://store.usgs.gov/product/105315).

**Don’t wait until April to obtain these items.** If you order them today, they’ll arrive in plenty of time.

**Your compass must have** the following features:

* *Adjustable* declination (not “declination scale”).
* A transparent, *rectangular* base plate.
* Degrees in 2-degree increments and *marked from 0 to 360°.*
* *Meridian lines* inside the dial aligned to north-south.

As for optional features, a sighting mirror improves accuracy. A global compass is more expensive and not necessary. Each student must have their own compass.

Let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

# Online Map and Compass Starts This Week 3/31/24

**Subject:** **Olympia Navigation Course starts Monday, April 1**

[Copied instructors]

The first online component of the Olympia Navigation course starts Monday, April 1. It’s the **OLY24 - Wilderness Navigation** class on Coassemble, the Mountaineers online learning platform. Here is the link to create your login:

<https://mountaineers.coassemble.com/unlock/O7Xl8XI>

Start on the class work as soon as you can and be sure to finish by April 22. You’ll also see the OLY24 - Introduction to Digital Navigation (or GPS) class, but wait to start on that until April 16.

By now, you should have the materials you need for the class. If not, act now to obtain them (see email below).

I’m assigning each of you a volunteer mentor to assist you in the class. Your mentor will contact you within the next couple of days. Don’t hesitate to reach out to them with questions about the material.

Let me know if you have any questions.

# Navigation Course Optional Workshops 4/2/24

**Subject: Olympia Navigation Optional In-Person Workshops**

[Copied instructors]

I see a bunch of you have started work already. That’s excellent! And many of you have heard from your mentors, as well. Rely on them to help you. Ask them questions.

This year we’re again holding two **in-person, optional workshops** at Squaxin Park in Olympia. If you have questions that only an in-person, hands-on interaction can answer—or think you might later—be sure to RSVP for one or both:

* [April 10, 6:00-7:30 PM](https://www.mountaineers.org/locations-lodges/olympia-branch/events/olympia-navigation-in-person-workshop-1)
* [April 30, 6:00-7:30 PM](https://www.mountaineers.org/locations-lodges/olympia-branch/events/olympia-navigation-in-person-workshop-2)

In the meantime, keep plugging away. Let me know if you have any questions.

# Navigation Course Optional Workshops 4/8/24

**Subject: Olympia Navigation Optional In-Person Workshops**

[Copied instructors]

This is another reminder about the two **in-person, optional workshops** at Squaxin Park in Olympia. Bring your questions and concerns. Use these RSVP links:

* [April 10, 6:00-7:30 PM](https://www.mountaineers.org/locations-lodges/olympia-branch/events/olympia-navigation-in-person-workshop-1)
* [April 30, 6:00-7:30 PM](https://www.mountaineers.org/locations-lodges/olympia-branch/events/olympia-navigation-in-person-workshop-2)

Are you interested in some of the topics you might explore in the workshop? Here’s a partial list:

* Setting your compass declination to 15° E.
* Holding a compass and reading a bearing.
* Taking a bearing to a feature, object, or other target.
* Given a bearing, find the object it points at using your compass.
* Identifying where you are using bearings to landmarks around you (triangulation).
* How to follow a compass course.

Hope to see you there.

# GPS Starts Today 4/15/24

**Subject:** **Olympia Navigation Online GPS class starts Monday, April 15**

[Copied instructors]

The second online component of the Olympia Navigation course starts today. It’s the **OLY24 – Introduction to Digital Navigation** class on Coassemble, the Mountaineers online learning platform.

Some of you have already started, which is great. Others are still working on the map and compass class and that’s fine, too. You have until April 22 to finish the map and compass class and until May 6 to finish the GPS class. That’s a hard finish date, so don’t delay or wait until the last couple of days.

I’m assigning each of you a volunteer mentor to assist you in this class. Your mentor will contact you within the next couple of days. Don’t hesitate to reach out to them with questions about the material.

Let me know if you have any questions.

# GaiaGPS Premium Offer 4/15/24

**Subject: Olympia Navigation Reminder of free GaiaGPS Premium subscription**

You might find this offer useful, since you'll be using GaiaGPS for some of the work in the Introduction to Digital Navigation class that starts today. From the Instructions for Redeeming Member Benefits [page](https://www.mountaineers.org/membership/benefits/instructions-for-redeeming-member-benefits):

Gaia GPS is offering one free year of their Gaia Premium Membership to members of The Mountaineers. This adds features and maps for professional and hardcore recreational users. Retail value: $39.99/year. Gaia can be used as a standalone service on [gaiagps.com](http://gaiagps.com/), or as an enhancement to the mobile app (purchased separately for iOS or Android). To redeem this offer, [click here](http://www.gaiagps.com/premium/?PROMO=MOUNTAINEERS), download the app on your mobile device, and log in to your account to start using your premium membership.

# Online Map and Compass Status 4/23/24

**Subject: Olympia Navigation Online Course Status**

[Sent to all students and CC to mentors]

You’re making good progress on the online map and compass material. Well over half of you have finished and as a group you’re 80% of the way through. If you’re not done, you should keep working and the mentors will keep an eye on your assignments. In the meantime, you should also be working on the GPS material, too.

All of the online material **must be finished by 5:00 PM on May 6**. To attend the field days and earn your badges, you must complete the online material.

If you need help, don’t hesitate to reach out. And consider attending the last [in-person workshop at Squaxin Park on April 30 at 6:00 PM](https://www.mountaineers.org/locations-lodges/olympia-branch/events/olympia-navigation-in-person-workshop-2).

In a few days, I’ll send information about the online workshops to prepare for the field days on May 11 and 12.

Let me know if you have any questions.

# Online Map and Compass Results 4/29/24

**Subject: Olympia Navigation: You have completed the Wilderness Navigation online class**

Congratulations on completing the first online class in the Olympia Navigation course. You’re on the way!

Keep working on the Introduction to Digital Navigation (GPS) class online. You should finish this by the end of next weekend, May 5.

In a few days, I’ll send information about next week’s online workshops to prepare for the field days on May 6 and 8.

**Subject: Olympia Navigation: You’re so close to finishing the Wilderness Navigation online class**

You are close, but not yet done.

You may not have received notices about your returned or missing assignments. I have checked each of these missing parts and confirmed that you still have some work to do. Please complete it as soon as you can.

You have the following work to complete:

* Complete the material
* Upload photo of compass declination
* Upload UTM assignment
* Complete UTM assignment
* Upload Trip Plan assignment
* Add detail to the Trip Plan assignment

Let me know if you have any questions.

**Subject: Olympia Navigation: You have not finished the Wilderness Navigation online class**

I’m writing to find out your plans for the course. You have either not started the map and compass online class, have made little progress, or appear to have stalled out.

To attend the field days and earn your badges, **you must complete the online material** by the end of the day on May 5.

Please let me know what your plans are. If I don’t hear from you, I’ll conclude that you are withdrawing from the course.

# Workshop Information 5/5/24

**Subject: Olympia Navigation Zoom Workshop May 6**

[CC’d the signed-up volunteers and forwarded to the field volunteers]

I’m hosting a Zoom workshop to help you prepare for the Navigation course field exercises on May 11 and 12. You must attend this, as it’s your best chance to have your questions answered and to learn about the exercises and how we’ll organize the day. This will be useful for both students and volunteers for the weekend.

The workshop will start at 7:00 PM. I expect it to last about 60 minutes. The Zoom link is below.

Have your compass, your smartphone with the GaiaGPS app loaded, and a piece of paper available.

Come with your questions. There will be time for answers. I’ll record the session and provide a link for those needing it.

Topic: Navigation Workshop 1   
Time: May 6, 2024 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

**Join Zoom Meeting**[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89529877690?pwd=cU54MXFpMXhwcjduQ1Z0NW00ajJRUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89529877690?pwd=cU54MXFpMXhwcjduQ1Z0NW00ajJRUT09%20)

Meeting ID: 895 2987 7690   
Passcode: 856302

**Subject: Olympia Navigation Zoom Workshop May 8**

[CC’d the signed-up volunteers and forwarded to the field volunteers]

I’m hosting a Zoom workshop to help you prepare for the Navigation course field exercises on May 11 and 12. You must attend this, as it’s your best chance to have your questions answered and to learn about the exercises and how we’ll organize the day. This will be useful for both students and volunteers for the weekend.

The workshop will start at 7:00 PM. I expect it to last about 60 minutes. The Zoom link is below.

Have your compass, your smartphone with the GaiaGPS app loaded, and a piece of paper available.

Come with your questions. There will be time for answers. I’ll record the session and provide a link for those needing it.

Topic: Navigation Workshop 2   
Time: May 8, 2024 06:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

**Join Zoom Meeting**[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87238017858?pwd=dC90dVpodmZmc1ZNbjROMERCNTdFQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87238017858?pwd=dC90dVpodmZmc1ZNbjROMERCNTdFQT09%20)

Meeting ID: 872 3801 7858   
Passcode: 311881

# Online Material Incomplete 5/6/24

**Subject: Olympia Navigation: You have not completed the online material by the deadline**

You have not completed the online Wilderness Navigation class material by the deadline. Without that material completed, you may not attend the field day this weekend.

I’m sorry to have to deliver this message. I hope you’ll maintain your interest in navigation and try again in the future.

# Field Exercises 5/9/24

**Subject: Olympia Navigation Field Exercise Activity May 11/12**

I have you scheduled for Saturday’s/Sunday’s outdoor exercise on May 11/May 12. Let me know if I have that wrong. Your starting time is 8:00/9:00/10:00 AM.

Park along Old Olympic Hwy at the entrance to the gravel road that heads southwest from the paved road. [The parking area is marked on this map.](https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1nmI9Jc56VozAVpQ4TogGqY3xpvs&usp=sharing) I’ve added some driving directions below.

You should be there and *ready to go* ***before the start time***. The workshop will be done by 5:00 PM.

Prepare as for a hike, with weather-appropriate clothing and the ten essentials in a day pack. We’ll be outside all day, so bring water and a lunch, as well as your compass, paper and writing tools in a plastic bag. You will be walking through some brush and bramble, so wear long pants and consider bringing gloves and gaiters. Bring your GaiaGPS app with a map of the Kennedy Creek area already downloaded.

I’ve attached the workshop presentation, the Student Exercises, and the map. You can review these to prepare. Print them (the map in color) if you can, but I’ll bring paper copies, in case you can’t. I’ve also attached the presentation from the Zoom meeting, in case you need to review it.

Driving directions from Olympia:

**Carpooling:** If you like, you can gather at Haggen Foods (1313 Cooper Point Rd SW, Olympia, WA 98502), in the northwest corner of the parking lot and arrange carpooling. Plan to arrive 45 minutes before your start time and leave the parking lot 30 minutes before your start time. The freeway entrance is just south of the store, on Black Lake Blvd.

**Follow US-101 from Olympia** west through town. Take a slight right to **stay on US-101 N** (signs for Shelton/Port Angeles). From the slight right, **drive 4.5 miles** toward Shelton (past the Steamboat Island interchange, past Oyster Bay Rd, and past Holiday Valley Rd), pass mile marker 358, and **turn left onto Old Olympic Highway**. Follow that road about **0.75 miles** to the gravel road on the left.

If you cross Kennedy Creek or pass Oyster Bay itself on US-101, you’ve gone too far. Take the next left onto Old Olympic Highway and cross back over the creek to the meeting place.

[This Google map](https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1nmI9Jc56VozAVpQ4TogGqY3xpvs&ll=47.077392531278164%2C-123.04953537910156&z=13) has the carpool and Kennedy Creek sites marked.

Be prepared to learn a lot and have fun doing it!

# Congratulations Successful Students 5/21/24

**Subject: Olympia Navigation: You passed the Navigation course!**

Congratulations! You have passed the Olympia Basic Navigation course! Thank you for your hard work in mastering the material and completing the many milestones for this course.

I have marked you as a course graduate and assigned your badges. Your profiles should reflect those changes. If you completed the online Map and Compass material, you’ll see the Basic Navigation badge. And if you completed the online GPS material, you’ll see the Basic GPS badge. Let me know if you don’t see the badges you expect.

Please send me any comments, questions, or concerns about the course. You’ve received feedback forms for the closed activities. You can use those, as they’re anonymous, or you can email me directly. I’m interested in any ideas you have for improving the course.

Have a great summer.