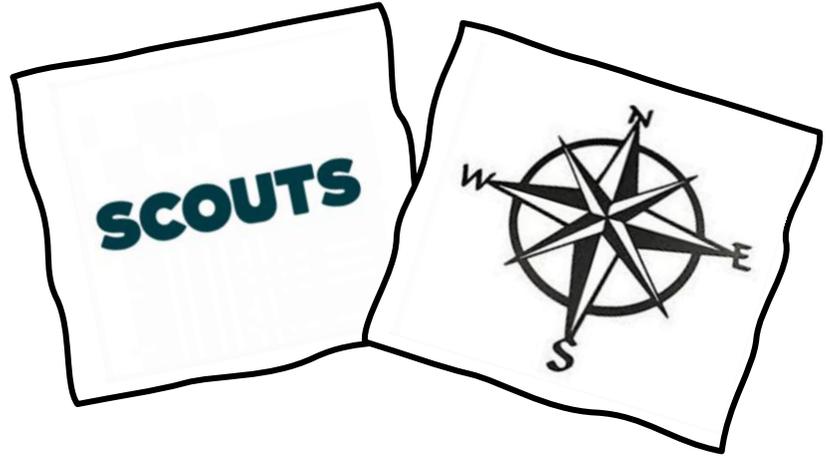


OUTDOOR BOX STAR COMPASS

Outdoor activities are at the heart of Scouting.

This activity is for Scouts but any section or leaders could take part too !



What you need:

- 1 Stick (1 metre long)
- Paper
- Pen

How to make it:

Knowing what direction is north is a useful skill, and this activity will help you find out on a starry night when you don't have a compass to hand - Don't worry about knowing what the stars are called, this method will allow you to navigate with any star except Polaris to find north (or any other direction).

1. On a cloudless night go outside and push the stick into the ground.
2. Sit on the ground and look at the very tip of the stick and line it up with a star in the sky.
3. Now watch this star for 10-20 minutes and note the direction the star has moved from its starting position.
4. On a sheet of paper write down the following letters L U R D and underneath, draw a line and write the following letters N E S W.

Then write this key:

L U R D = Left, Up, Right, Down / N E S W = North, East, South, West.

5. Consider the direction your star moved whilst you were watching and then look at the key.
If the Star moved Left, you are facing North. If it moved Up, you are facing East.
If it moved Right, you are facing South. If it moved Down, you are facing West.
6. Then make a note your direction so you know which way is north in the morning.



Greater things for the great outdoors:

You can take this activity further by working out the letter combinations for other directions:

e.g. If the star moved to the right and up at the same time, the direction you are facing is South East – why not work out the other points of the compass.

Safety Notes:

All activities must be managed safely, and equipment used for the purpose intended.

