

Fieldcraft Skills

Land Navigation



Determining Direction without a Compass

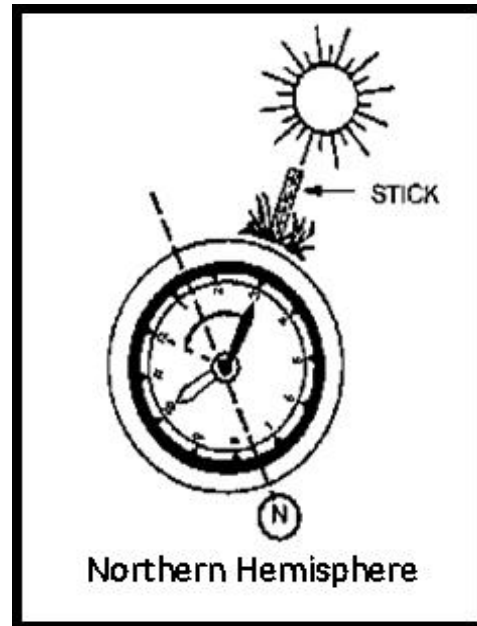
The Watch Method

In the northern hemisphere, hold the watch horizontal and point the hour hand at the sun. You can place a stick in the ground to help you to maintain your orientation.

Bisect the angle between the hour hand and the 12 o'clock mark to get the north-south line.

If there is any doubt as to which end of the line is north, remember that the sun rises in the east, sets in the west, and is due south at noon.

The sun is in the east before noon and in the west after noon.



In the southern hemisphere, orient the 12 o'clock mark toward the sun, and bisect the angle between the 12 o'clock mark and the current position of the hour hand.

The further you are from the equator, the more accurate this method will be. The direction will be accurate if you are using true local time, without any changes for daylight savings time.

