

Maze-Orienteering

A race against the clock!

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A Leader's Guide to

Maze-O

A Fun Orienteering Activity

for

Scout Meetings

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Maze-Orienteering

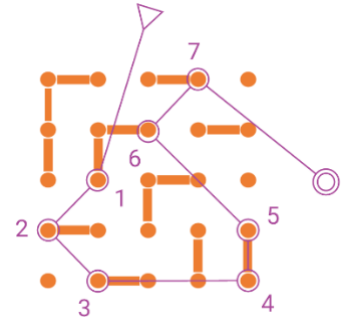
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What is Maze-O?

The Maze-O is a short, fun Orienteering course where the runners orient themselves on a map in a 60-ft square MAZE. They follow a course from point to point through the MAZE and punch/scan the markers at each control point. It's a fun race against the clock. There are several different difficulty levels that range from White (basic), to Yellow, Orange and Green (advanced). This is a fun activity for Scout meetings and introduces Scouts to Orienteering in a small, manageable area.

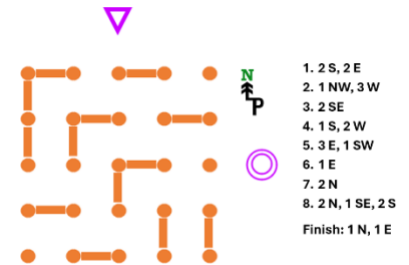
White Course:

Follow the course from point to point until the finish. This is much like a traditional point-to-point course, only in a small Maze.



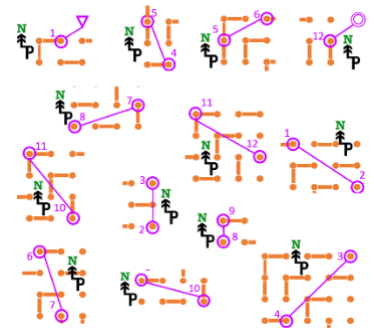
Yellow Course:

Similar to the White course, however the course is NOT drawn on the map, follow the instructions to navigate from point to point using a list of Cardinal Directions (go 2 South, then 2 East)



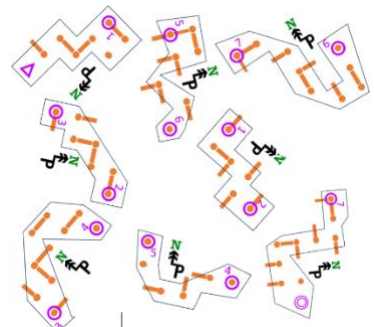
Orange Course:

The course becomes more difficult as you are given partial squares of the map to get from one control to the next.



Green Course:

This map is shown in oddly cut shapes that show puzzle-like pieces of the map that are rotated off north. Find the piece that shows your current location and the next control and visit all of them as quickly as you can.



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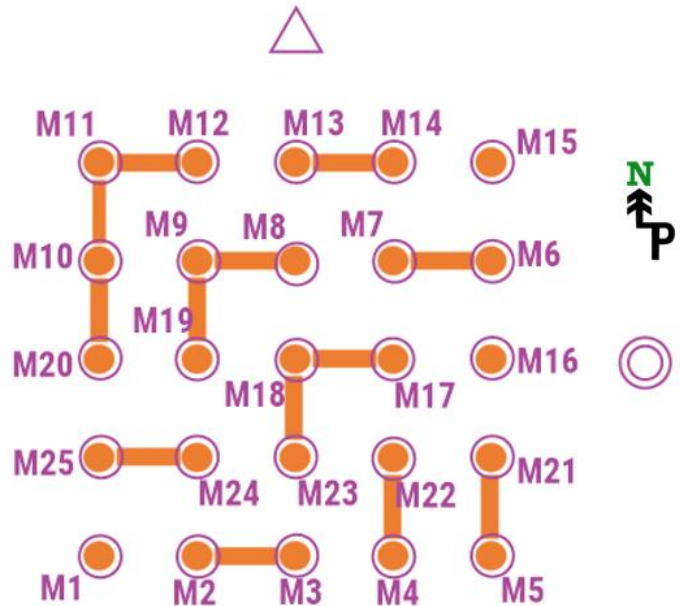
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Maze-O Set-up

The Maze is built on a 5x5 grid of garden stakes, cones, buckets, large rocks (or whatever you have), 15ft apart for a total of 60ft square (or whatever size you like). Some courses are sensitive to North (see the set-up diagram for North).

- Stake the first corner M11
- Connect a 100ft tape measure to the first stake, use a compass to align M1 stake due South
- Install a stake every 15 ft
- Rotate tape measure from M11 due east to M15
- Install a stake every 15 ft
- Repeat M12 to M2, M13 to M3 etc until the entire grid is complete
- Tie neon construction tape or rope to make MAZE WALLS as shown in the diagram
 - the maze walls are not required; however they make the grid look more interesting and create some restriction of movement to the runners
- Install START (north of M13) and FINISH stakes (east of M16)
- Install control markers on each garden stake (clothespin a card to the stake, if you are using buckets or cones, just tape the markers...see Appendix)
 - Marker should display the control code (e.g “M25”) and include either a pin punch or a code for scouts to write down, or barcode if you are using scanners
 - If you would like to use a wireless barcode scanner, they are ~ \$30 on Amazon; email orienteering@troop8787.org for the free program used to record and score your runners on a PC. The Maze-O program is made to work with [Symcode 2D Wireless Barcode Scanner](#) and we usually run with 4 at a time. You could start with one.
- Set a table for your officials, NE of M15, convenient to start and finish makers



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Maze-O Operation

Check-in table Supplies

- Table & Chair for the Official
- Maps (2-3 each course, in zip lock bags or laminated)
- If you are using punches or hand writing codes, you will need index cards for runners to write codes or punch and the official needs a “key” to score each runner (see appendix)
- Timer, if you care, and if you’re NOT using the wireless barcode scanners
- If you are using a wireless barcode scanner, you need the scanner(s) and a PC to record results

At START:

- Provide instruction:
 - Choose the course to run, get a map
 - There are easy courses that follow a straightforward path through the maze
 - More difficult courses show partial sections of the maze
 - The most difficult courses show partial sections which are rotated off of north
 - Explain that the runner will be following the map to visit markers in the maze in a race for the fastest time
 - Point out the Start and Finish Markers
 - If using wireless scanners:
 - the runner must clear scanner data and then scan the selected course (these are barcodes on the map)
 - Runner must scan the barcode at the Start Triangle to begin timer
 - Runner must scan the barcode at the Finish Marker to stop timer
 - Runner must return the barcode scanner to get their time/score registered
- Provide the Map and record the start time

At FINISH:

- Record the finish time and score the runners card against the key
- If using barcode scanners:
 - take scanner from runner
 - make sure spreadsheet is in first column of next empty row
 - scan the “Upload Data” barcode
 - all of the runner’s scans will transfer and be evaluated for time and correct scans
 - the Finish scan will show total time and “OK” or “DQ”
 - duplicate scans are ignored, any scan out of order will DQ runner
 - Type runner’s name on the FINISH row if they want to be listed on the lead-board
 - There is a second tab in spreadsheet that summarizes top times by course (it refreshes every 2 minutes)

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Maze-O

Courses

Print these for your orienteers to run the courses

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Start at the Triangle, visit each point circled on your course (in order).

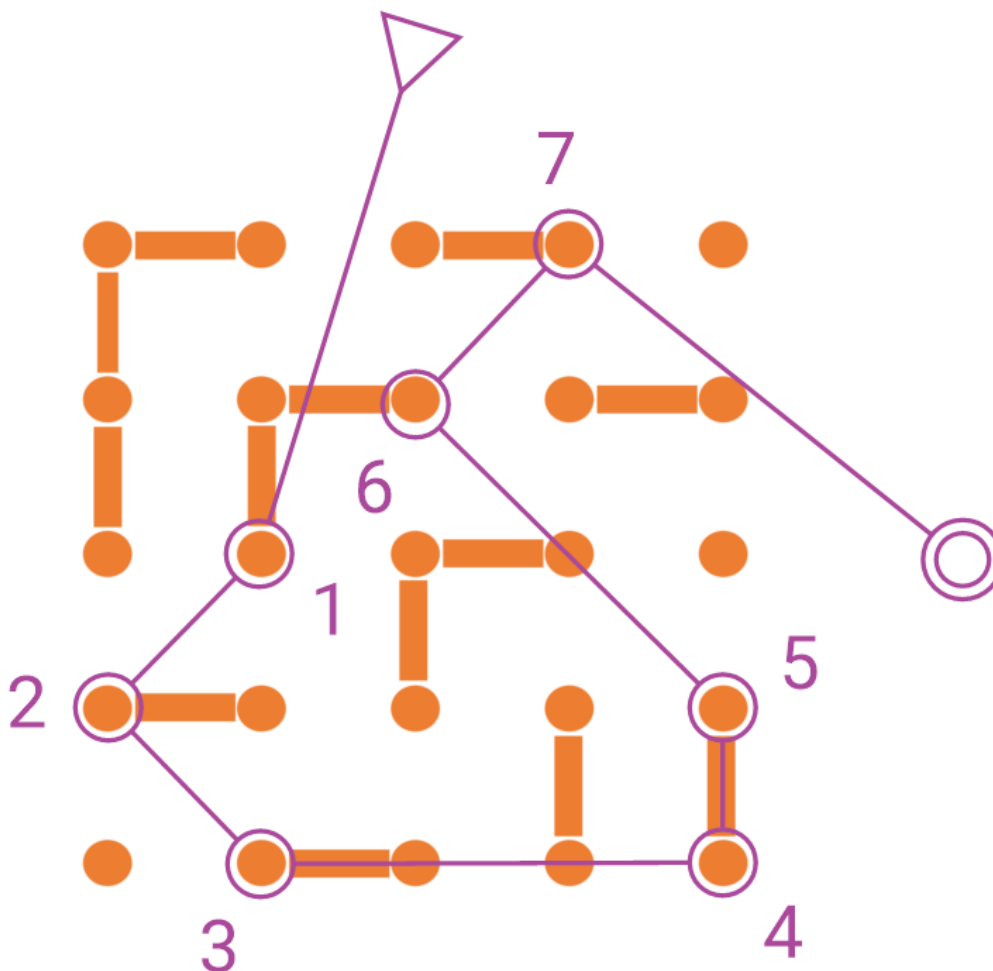
Do NOT step over/under the maze walls (tape/rope)



1. Clear your scanner data
2. Scan your course selection
3. Scan at START TRIANGLE to start timer
4. **Run the course!**
5. Scan at FINISH sign to stop timer
6. Turn in your scanner to record your score/time



Clear Data

WHITE Course



	START
1	M19
2	M25
3	M2
4	M5
5	M21
6	M8
7	M14
	FINISH

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Start at the Triangle and visit all control points in order, by using the list of cardinal directions (2 S, 2 E means go south 2 points and then east 2 points).

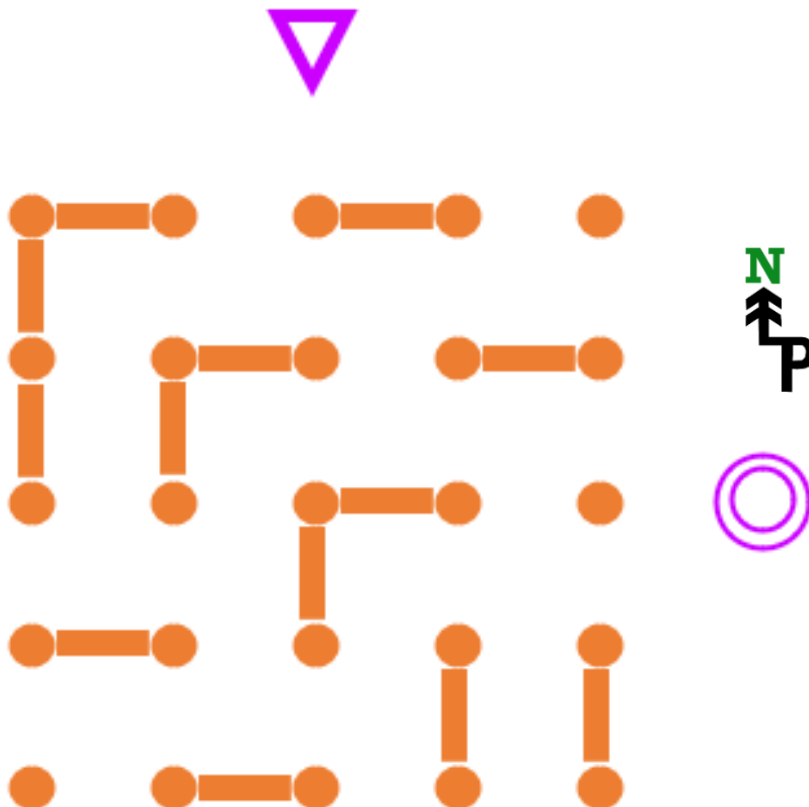
Do NOT step over/under the maze walls (tape/rope)

1. Clear your scanner data
2. Scan your course selection
3. Scan at START TRIANGLE to start timer
- 4. Run the course!**
5. Scan at FINISH sign to stop timer
6. Turn in your scanner to record your score/time



Clear Data

YELLOW Course



1. 2 S, 2 E
2. 1 NW, 3 W
3. 2 SE
4. 1 S, 2 W
5. 3 E, 1 SW
6. 1 E
7. 2 N
8. 2 N, 1 SE, 2 S

Finish: 1 N, 1 E

	START
1	M6
2	M11
3	M18
4	M25
5	M3
6	M4
7	M17
8	M21
	FINISH

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Start at the Triangle, find the piece of the map below that shows your current location and the next control, then get there as quickly as you can until you visit all controls.

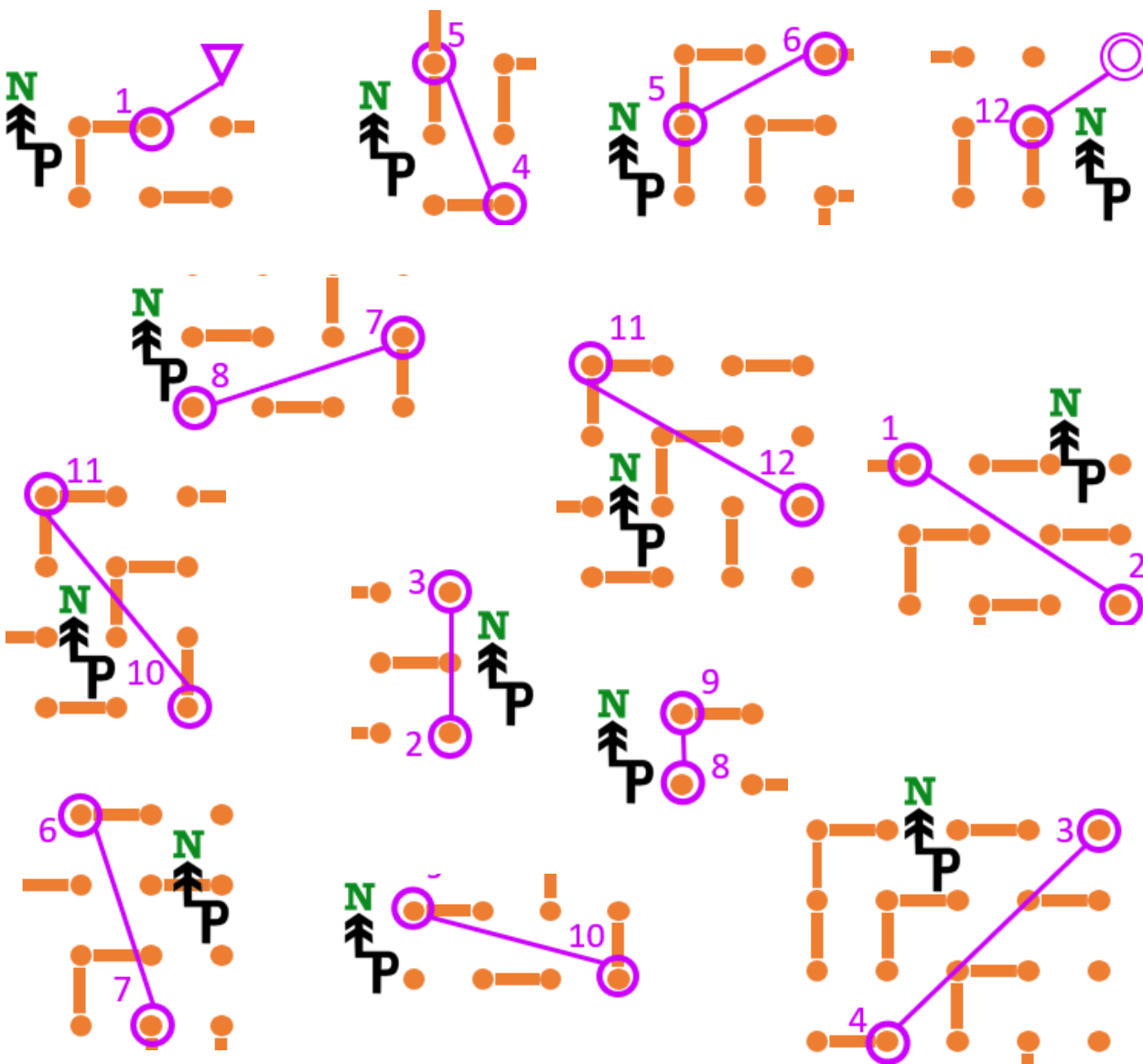
Do NOT step over/under the maze walls (tape/rope)

1. Clear your scanner data
2. Scan your course selection
3. Scan at START TRIANGLE to start timer
- 4. Run the course!**
5. Scan at FINISH sign to stop timer
6. Turn in your scanner to record your score/time



Clear Data

ORANGE Course



▶	START
1	M12
2	M16
3	M15
4	M24
5	M10
6	M13
7	M22
8	M1
9	M25
10	M4
11	M9
12	M21
⊙	FINISH

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Start at the Triangle, find the piece of the map below that shows your current location and the next control, then get there as quickly as you can until you visit all controls. Be careful to orientent each piece to North.

Do NOT step over/under the maze walls (tape/rope)



Clear Data

1. Clear your scanner data
2. Scan your course selection
3. Scan at START TRIANGLE to start timer
4. **Run the course!**
5. Scan at FINISH sign to stop timer
6. Turn in your scanner to record your score/time

GREEN Course



	START
1	M24
2	M14
3	M25
4	M16
5	M10
6	M16
7	M11
	FINISH

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APPENDIX




























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Control Point Markers

Cut out and attach to each control point, runners either write down the letter code or scan the barcode to record that they made it to the correct control

M1 Code: D 	M2 Code: F 	M3 Code: E 	M4 Code: R 
M5 Code: T 	M6 Code: Q 	M7 Code: M 	M8 Code: X 
M9 Code: Z 	M10 Code: C 	M11 Code: N 	M12 Code: B 
M13 Code: W 	M14 Code: A 	M15 Code: H 	M16 Code: K 
M17 Code: U 	M18 Code: G 	M19 Code: L 	M20 Code: P 
M21 Code: J 	M22 Code: V 	M23 Code: I 	M24 Code: Y 
M25 Code: S 	START 	FINISH 	

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Control Code Key (not required if using the barcode scanners)

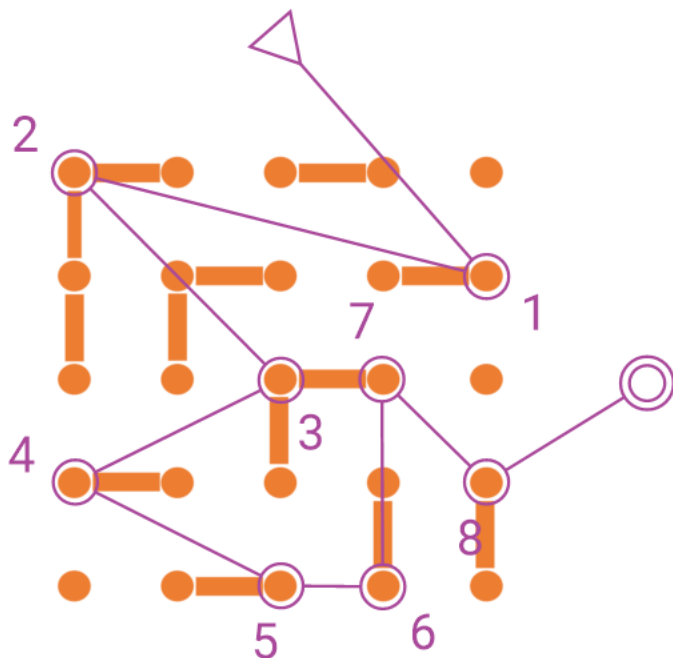
White: L, S, F, T, J, X, A

Yellow: Q, N, G, S, E, R, U, J

Orange: B, K, H, Y, C, W, V, D, S, R, Z, J

Green: Y, A, S, K, C, K, N

Yellow Course M6 to M21 (this is what the course would look like if the path of the Cardinal Points were drawn on the map)

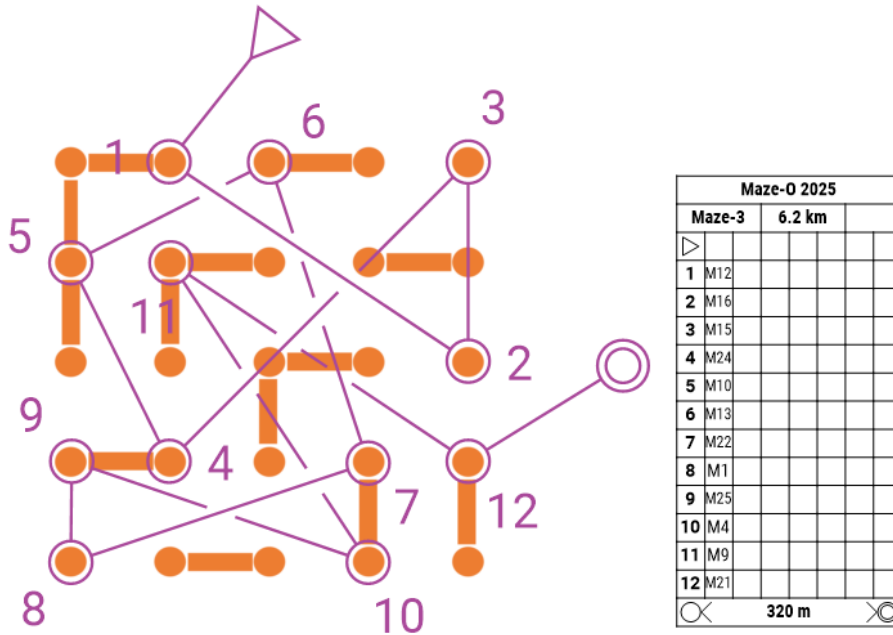


Maze-O 2025					
Maze2	3.6 km				
▷					
1	M6				
2	M11				
3	M18				
4	M25				
5	M3				
6	M4				
7	M17				
8	M21				
		320 m			

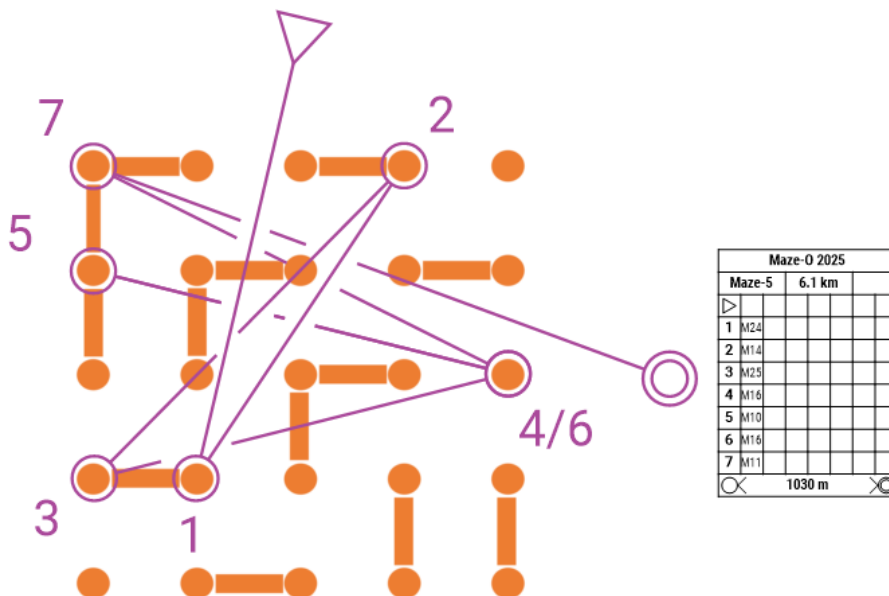
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Orange Course M12 to M21 (this is what the course looks like before it is broken into squares)



Green Course M24 to M11 (this is what the course looks like before it is broken into pieces and rotated)



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Please let us know if you liked this activity! Feedback is collected at:

<https://www.centraltexasspringo.org/maze-o/>

For more Orienteering fun, check your local Orienteering Club.

In Central Texas it's Austin Orienteering Club



www.AustinOC.com

The annual Spring-O in Central Texas is a huge orienteering event with special activities focused on Scouts. www.CentralTexasSpringO.org