

AcadianX Navigation Checklist

At Home and/or While Still Connected to the Internet

- Research** – Study your routes from guidebooks and other sources.
- Get Maps** – Purchase relevant topographical maps, if available and time allows. Otherwise, download topographical maps from the internet. Customize them with collected routes, tracks, waypoints, and notes, and then print. Be sure the map includes the data, such as the UTM grid, that you will need.
- Download Maps** – Download helpful maps and satellite images to a GPS device at the appropriate level of detail. Include an area that surrounds the intended travel area in case plans change; the larger map can be at a lower level of detail if storage space is an issue.
- Check Conditions** – Research weather trends as well as road and trail conditions.
- Check Gear** – Confirm that electronics are ready: data downloaded, batteries charged, PLB's registered and the preset messages on satellite communicators updated.
- Designated Check-In** – Leave the trip itinerary, including trailhead, vehicle description, and license plate, with a responsible person

At the Trailhead

- Orient** – Confirm the party is at the right place to begin. Orient the map to the surroundings. Confirm with GPS.
- Set Trailhead** – Set a GPS waypoint at the trailhead.
- Set Datum** – Set the GPS device's datum to match that of the physical map.
- Calibrate Elevation** – Have the party calibrate all barometric-based altimeters to the trailhead elevation using a map or GPS device.
- Set Declination** – Note the magnetic declination, and adjust the compasses as needed.
- Save Power** – Turn off the electronics or configure them to extend battery life to last the length of the trip

En Route

- Engage Team** – Actively engage the team in navigation, including assessing whether the current position and planned path through the landscape continue to appear safe and can be correlated to the map.
- Look Behind** – Familiarize the party with the appearance of the return trip if applicable.
- Recalibrate** – Occasionally recalibrate barometric-based altimeters at known locations shown on map.
- Save Waypoints** – Gather GPS waypoints and tracks en route if they may be helpful later, especially if the party may need to renegotiate complex terrain.

Post Trip

- Review** – Gather together and organize all the digital and physical navigation information that will help the team (or the next team) to safely navigate the same area on another trip.