



AMERICAN
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-- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE --

Outdoor Adventures: Navigating the Nordic Way
A New Exhibit Celebrating the Compass and the Evolution of Navigation Technology
Opens April 6, 2019, on view through September 22, 2019
At the American Swedish Historical Museum



Philadelphia, PA --The ASHM is excited to announce the debut of our Spring 2019 special exhibit, *Outdoor Adventures: Navigating the Nordic Way*. Join us as we explore the history of Nordic navigation, compasses, and the modern-day sport of orienteering.

For thousands of years, people in northern Europe navigated turbulent seas and dark forests to survive and thrive. The Vikings were particularly renowned for their directional abilities at sea by using unique tools, birds, and their own senses to find land. This exhibit highlights the techniques that brought these voyagers from the Black Sea to Newfoundland!

Curious about compasses? You can also learn about how the compass revolutionized navigation in Europe beginning in the 1600s. This exhibit includes compasses spanning the last 500 years and explains their role in transforming wayfinding. These objects also gave rise to the Nordic sport of orienteering by the late 1800s. Orienteering, especially popular in America with the Boy Scouts, challenges you to quickly navigate rough terrain using only a map and compass. Developed from Swedish military training in the 1890s and quickly popularized in Norway and Finland, this sport was brought to America by Swedish-American inventor Björn Kjellström. After learning about orienteering today, try it for yourself in FDR Park! The Delaware Valley Orienteering Association created maps of our park available to borrow. If you can master map and compass, you'll be treated to a tour of the park's most historic, picturesque sites.

The exhibit features a collection of compasses amassed by Björn Kjellström, inventor of the modern compass and the man who introduced orienteering to North America. Björn's student, Chris Cassone, is loaning the half of the collection dealing with the modern history of the compass and Björn's prototypes from the 1930s. The other half of the collection is being loaned by the National Scouting Museum in New Mexico, which features rare and exotic compasses from the past 500 years. *Outdoor Adventures* opens on April 6th and will be on view through September 22, 2019. This exhibit is included with Museum admission. For more information visit americanswedish.org/exhibitions.

The American Swedish Historical Museum is located in FDR Park at 1900 Pattison Avenue in South Philadelphia, five blocks west of the Sports Complex. The Museum is easily accessible from Route 95 or 76 and has free parking. For those taking public transportation, the Broad Street subway Pattison Ave/NRG station, or SEPTA's Route 17 bus is within walking distance of the Museum.

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