

Preparing GPS Receivers for Group Activities

1. **Initialize** the GPS receivers outdoors (turn on and allow time to retrieve satellite data). This should be done within a few days prior to the class. Receivers that have not been recently used (especially if stored without batteries) could take 15 minutes or more to lock on to GPS satellites, wasting valuable class time.
2. Check to see that all receivers are set to the same desired **position format** and **datum**. The receiver default settings usually are hddd°mm.mmm (degrees and decimal minutes) and datum WGS 84. Make sure the settings you select match the maps you are using.
3. Check to see that all receivers are set to the same desired **north orientation** (i.e., magnetic, true, grid, or user defined).
4. Check to see that all receivers are set to the same desired **measurement units** (i.e., statute, metric, nautical).
5. You may wish to **reset** some or all previously recorded data, including waypoints, tracks, and routes.
6. Check the **battery** level on each unit, replace or recharge as needed.
7. **Review and practice** the GPS receiver manipulations necessary for the particular activity that you are about to facilitate.