

Topography and Topographic Maps

Basic Features

- **Steep slopes** - contours closely spaced
- **Gentle slopes** - contours less closely spaced
- **Summits/hilltops** - concentric circles (knoll is a smaller hill)
- **Depressions** - concentric circles with lines radiating to the center
- **Spurs** - bulge off of a ridge line. U-shaped series of lines off high ground.
- **Reentrants** (gullies) - indentations along ridges (marking water drain). V-shaped series of lines off high ground.
- **Saddles** - area between summits
- **Ridges** - parallel lines sloping down hill

Colors

- Green: woods, brush
- Blue: water
- White: light vegetation
- Brown: contour lines
- Red/gray: urban areas

• **NOTE** - Look for low spots and water. Water flows down hill.

