

## The 10 Rules of Contour Lines

Rule 1 - every point of a contour line has the same elevation.

Rule 2 - contour lines separate uphill from downhill.

Rule 3 - contour lines do not touch or cross each other except at a cliff.

Rule 4 - every 5th contour line is darker in color. This is an **INDEX** contour line.

Rule 5 - Contour lines are closer together in steep terrain and farther apart in flat areas.

Rule 6 - Contour lines close to form circles (or go off the map) AND the inside of the circle is the top of a **HILL**.

Rule 7 - Closed depressions have **HACHURE** marks on the downhill side of a contour line.

Rule 8 - Contour lines create V-patterns when they cross a valley (or drainage). The tip of the V **ALWAYS** points uphill.

Rule 9 - Contour lines create V (or U) patterns when they cross a ridge. The tip or blunt end of the V or U at a ridge **ALWAYS** points downhill.

Rule 10 - Contour lines on opposite sides of a valley or ridge occur in pairs.