

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award



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General

Since 1960 The Scout Association has been an Operating Authority for The Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Many thousands of Members of the Movement have gained Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. The Award is not in itself a youth Organisation. It is a programme of practical, cultural and adventurous activities for all young people between the ages of 14 and 25 irrespective of their background or culture. The Award (comprised of Service, Expeditions, Skills and Physical Recreation) has many similarities with Scouting, which makes it attractive to young people in Scouting.

The requirements for the Chief Scout's Platinum and Diamond Awards, and the Queen's Scout Award are linked to the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards, and the Scheme should play an integral part in the Programme for those in the Explorer Scout and Scout Network Sections.

There are three Awards; Bronze for those aged 14 and over, Silver for those 15 and over and Gold for those 16 and over. There is the option to permit young people to start their Bronze Award a few months before their 14th birthday if they are working with a group who are mainly 14 or over. The Award Officer of the Operating Authority must approve this in writing.

The upper age for completion of all Awards is the 25th birthday. For those who gain them there is a cloth badge which can be worn on the Scout uniform and a pin badge and certificate. Cloth badges are obtained from County/Area or District Badge Secretaries. Subject to the age requirements, young people may enter the Award at whichever level is best suited to them. Entry

into the Award can be at any level, however, if they progress through the Awards, some reductions in time requirements are given for higher Awards.

Each of the Awards is divided into four sections: Service, Expeditions, Skills and Physical Recreation. For the Gold Award there is an additional section - the Residential Project.

When choosing which activities to carry out within each section of the Award, the level of the Award should be considered along with the physical, intellectual, social and spiritual development of the young person to ensure that it is suitable. It is advisable to make a plan and set personal goals prior to starting the Award.

Service

The aim of this section is to encourage service to others, and is based on the belief that members of the community have a responsibility to each other. Young people should receive briefing and training in appropriate skills, and have some knowledge of the needs of those whom they are assisting.

Although the specific benefits depend on the choice of activity, the Service Section should offer the participants the opportunity to:

- give personal commitment
- appreciate the needs of others and contribute to their well-being
- trust and be trusted
- understand personal strengths and weaknesses
- increase self-esteem
- overcome prejudice and fears
- generate positive community action

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- care for the environment
- accept responsibility

If the form of service requires attendance at a training course or the gaining of a qualification, then this should be completed. The service must cover the minimum number of months for each level of The Award, and all forms of service require some form of practical involvement. The detailed requirements for each type of Service can be found in the Programmes File and on the website (www.theaward.org).

For guidance on young people assisting with Scouting Sections for their Service Section, please read factsheet FS120303, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award – Service.

Expeditions

The aim of the expeditions section is to encourage a spirit of adventure and discovery. All ventures involve self-reliant journeying in the countryside or on water, conceived with an Aim and undertaken on foot, by cycle, on horseback, or in canoes or boats by participants' own physical effort and without motorised assistance. Prior to the qualifying venture Participants must undertake training (the syllabus is outlined in the Programmes File and on the website) and practice journey(s). The duration of the venture varies depending on the level of the Award. At each level a minimum number of hours per day must be spent doing planned activity, this should be a combination of journeying and exploring.

The expeditions section should provide opportunities to:

- demonstrate enterprise
- work as a member of a team
- respond to a challenge
- develop self-reliance
- develop leadership skills
- recognise the needs and strengths of others
- make decisions and accept the consequences
- plan and execute a task

- reflect on personal performance
- enjoy and appreciate the countryside

It should be remembered that Adventurous Activity Permits are still required as for any other Scout activities where applicable.

At Gold level it is possible to undertake an "Other Adventurous Project", which is at least as demanding as a normal Gold level expedition, but departs from some of the Award's specified conditions and allows the participants greater freedom and imagination. These must be authorised by The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Head Office via The Award Officer for The Scout Association at Gilwell Park at least 12 weeks prior to the event. Many Explorer Belt expeditions meet the requirements of an "Other Adventurous Project" but each must be individually authorised by the Award Officer of the Operating Authority.

Further information and requirements may be found in the Award Handbook, Programmes File and the Expedition Guide.

Skills

The aim of this section is to encourage the discovery and development of practical and social skills and personal interests. It should encourage young people to pursue activities within a wide range of practical, cultural and social environments and develop social, life and vocational skills.

The skills section should offer participants the opportunity to:

- develop practical and social skills
- meet new people
- Organise and manage time
- discover how to research information
- set and respond to challenge
- work with others
- enjoy sharing
- discover new talents

Involvement in this section is measured in months, with an expectation of an average

involvement of at least one hour per week. There is flexibility as to how the hours are spent within the total time span as long as there is regular involvement throughout.

The list of suggested activities in the Programmes File is not exhaustive. The programmes are for guidance only and are not intended to be a rigid syllabus. Further details may be found in the Programmes File, the Award Handbook or on the website.

Physical Recreation

The aim of this section is to encourage participation and improvement in a physical activity. The physical recreation section should provide opportunities to:

- enjoy keeping fit
- improve fitness
- discover new abilities
- raise self-esteem
- extend personal goals
- respond to a challenge
- derive a sense of achievement

Performance is measured by participation and improvement over the minimum period of months for each particular award. Participants should average at least an hour a week over the total period of involvement.

Each participant should negotiate their programme with the mentor/instructor/coach and then agree the content and appropriate targets or goals. Wherever possible, National Governing Body Standards should be aimed for.

Residential Project (An additional requirement for the Gold Award)

The aim of this section is to broaden young peoples' experience through involvement with others in a residential setting. The residential project should give the young people the opportunity to:

- meet new people
- experience an unfamiliar environment

- build new relationships and show concern for others
- work as part of a team towards shared goals
- accept responsibility for self and others
- develop communication skills
- show initiative
- enjoy living and working with others

The project must last at least 5 days and 4 nights and only a small minority of those taking part should be previously known to the Participants. Opportunities enabling young people to fulfill these conditions are varied and include Outward Bound courses and Youth Leadership training courses, as well as conservation work with The National Trust or Canal Camps etc. Residential opportunities are often advertised in the Award Journal or could be found within Scouting. Further information may be found in the Award Handbook or Programmes File.

Methods

There are some differences in the methods of The Scout Association's Programme and that of the Award, so care should be taken to see that all the requirements of each are met. For example, all expeditions for the Award, including practice journeys, are to be supervised by an experienced adult, and in wild country the supervisor must be present in the area of the expedition and has to make daily contact with the Team. For any expedition in designated wild country, the appropriate Award Expedition Panel for the area being visited must be notified at least 4 to 6 weeks in advance. These panels can provide considerable guidance and are also available to assess Gold Award Expeditions. (Some will also assess Silver ventures).

It should be remembered that if an activity which fulfills the Expedition or Physical Recreation sections of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is run by The Scout Association, it is necessary for the leader/supervisor/instructor/assessor of the group to have gained the relevant authorisation as appropriate, as well as meeting The Duke of Edinburgh's Award criteria.

It is essential that Scout participants keep within the Award's conditions and that they do not assume that only Scout criteria apply.

How to Enter

Entry into the Award is by the purchase of an Entrance Pack from your County / Area Adviser for The Duke of Edinburgh's Award. When this is issued the date is recorded in the record book. Activities followed prior to this date may count if undertaken during the preceding three months, or with an Access Organisation. For more details on this, refer the Award Handbook.

It is important to note that no qualifications gained before enrollment to the Award are permitted to count.

Each County in England has a County Adviser who is responsible for ordering record books. In some Counties, there are District Advisers who assist the County Adviser in distributing Record Books and promoting the Award.

Completion

Once Awards have been completed, the record books must be checked, before the young person can be presented with their pin badge and certificate at a local presentation. Cloth badges for the uniform are obtained from County/Area or District Badge Secretaries.

At **Bronze / Silver** level on completion of the Award, the record book should be signed by the District Adviser, if one is appointed, or the County Adviser.

At **Gold** level once the requirements of the Award have been fulfilled, the young person must fill out Gold Award notification forms, available from the County Adviser. These must then be submitted with the record book to the County Adviser for checking before being sent to the Award Officer for The Scout Association for confirmation of the Award.

For participants from Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, Awards are processed through the respective Scout Headquarters. These are then sent to The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Head Office who then confirms the Award and send the

badges back to Scout Headquarters. These are then sent to the County Commissioner for a local presentation, whilst the record books and confirmation cards are returned to the County Adviser.

At a later date the young person will be invited by The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Head Office to a national presentation where their certificate will be presented to them.

Any problems should be referred to the Scout District or County Adviser for The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Programme and Development Department

The Programme and Development Department takes a supervisory role and assists with problems that cannot be resolved locally. It also provides a link with The Duke of Edinburgh's Award national office.

Enquires concerning the operation of the Award and matters of policy should be addressed to the Award Officer for The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, The Activities Office, Programme and Development Department, Gilwell Park, Bury Road, Chingford, London E4 7QW.

Entrance Packs, Record Books and Award Handbooks along with promotional literature are available from the Award Scheme Limited via your County Adviser. The Scout Information Centre also stocks Award Handbooks and other resources for leaders.

Publications Cross Reference

Award Handbook, Fifth Edition (Duke of Edinburgh's Award, 2004)

Programmes File (Duke of Edinburgh's Award, 2000) [update issued 2001, 2003, 2004]

Expedition Guide (The Duke of Edinburgh's Award 2000)

www.theaward.org