

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award – Expeditions



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General

This factsheet aims to explore the different options available to young people participating in the Expeditions section of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Outline Conditions

There are two types of qualifying venture:

- Expeditions – which are a combination of journeying and exploration, with journeying as their principle component.
- Other Adventurous Projects (over 16s Only) – which are of equal or more demanding nature but which depart from the specified conditions.

Methods of Travel

At each level the journey may take place on land –by foot, cycle, horse etc, or on water- by canoe, sail, rowing or boat etc without motorized assistance.

The Process

After an initial briefing, participants must undertake appropriate training. (Guidance can be found in the Award Handbook and the Expedition Guide).The Common Training Syllabus for each level of Award is set out in the Programmes File and on the Award's website.

Participants must undertake sufficient practice journeys to enable them to complete their planned qualifying venture.

The qualifying venture must have an Aim and be undertaken in an appropriate number in a Team numbering between four and seven (eight for some water ventures).

All participants must complete a report or presentation related to the Aim of the venture and the Aim of the Section.

Summary of requirements

For all ventures, the environment should present an appropriate challenge based on the experience and ability of the participants.

BRONZE – Two day / one night expedition with at least six hours planned activity every day, in normal rural countryside or on appropriate water. If the expedition is on foot, an average Team might achieve a distance of between 24 - 32km/ 15 - 20 miles.

SILVER – Three day / two night expedition with at least seven hours planned activity each day in normal rural or open country or on appropriate water. If the expedition is on foot, an average Team might achieve a distance of between 48 – 59 km/ 30 – 37 miles.

GOLD – Four day / three night expedition or other adventurous project with at least eight hours each day planned activity in wild or open country or on appropriate water. If the expedition is on foot, an average Team might achieve a distance of between 80 – 96 km/ 50 - 60 miles.

Planned activity includes a combination of journeying and exploring, but excludes overnight accommodation and catering.

Practice journeys for all ventures

In order that the leader or instructor has the opportunity to judge the participants' experience and competence, at least one practice journey must be undertaken at each level of the award.

The Scout Information Centre

Gilwell Park Chingford London E4 7QW Tel + 44 (0)20 8433 7100 Fax + 44 (0)20 8433 7103 email info.centre@scout.org.uk www.scoutbase.org.uk

This practice journey must not be over the same route or in a similar vicinity to the route to be used during the qualifying venture. The conditions should be as similar as possible to those anticipated for the qualifying venture, and undertaken in terrain which is equally demanding. For qualifying ventures in wild country, this practice journey must be in a recognised Wild Country Area. Unaccompanied practice journeys must be supervised and, if in wild country, the appropriate panel informed using the standard notification form.

Notification

Before **all** ventures in wild country it is important to complete a 'Green' Notification of Venture in Wild Country form as early as possible. The reason for this is to notify the appropriate Wild Country Panel for The Duke of Edinburgh's Award of where you will be and when you will be there.

For Qualifying Ventures, Wild Country Panels will usually provide Assessors if the notification process is followed. Panels may also be able to provide assessors for Bronze and Silver ventures.

Please remember that if the venture is being undertaken through The Scout Association as an Operating Authority, the Supervisor, Assessor or a Member of the Team must hold a relevant Adventurous Activity Permit where appropriate.

Care must be taken if ventures are being organised through The Scout Association and are being opened up to other young people who are not Members of the Movement. The Activity Centres (Young Persons' Safety) Act 1995 and associated Regulations must be complied with. Further guidance is available from the Activities Office, Gilwell Park.

Assessment Requirements

All Qualifying Ventures should be assessed by either a member of the Wild Country Panel (if in Wild Country) or by a competent adult who has been approved by the Operating Authority (The Scout Association).

At Bronze level the assessor should not have been involved with any of the training or instruction of the team.

At Silver level the assessor should be independent of the Award Group.

At Gold level the assessor must be independent of the Award Group. For ventures in Wild Country the assessor should be accredited by the Wild Country Panel or be approved by the Operating Authority (The Scout Association).

Within Scouting an assessor should have the relevant Adventurous Activity Permit and also have a knowledge of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Expeditions Abroad

The requirements of the expedition are the same for those, which take place abroad as for those which take place within the United Kingdom. The Operating Authority (The Scout Association) should be notified at least 12 weeks before using the Notification Form for Expeditions Abroad (Blue Form).

In addition to this, as a Scouting expedition you will also be required to obtain a Visits Abroad Pack from your Assistant County / Area Commissioner (International) and complete and return the Travel Abroad form for your expedition. A copy of the Travel Abroad form should accompany the Blue Form being sent to Scout Headquarters.

Other Adventurous Projects

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.

Notification of this type of venture should be an Other Adventurous Project Form and should be sent to the Operating Authority (The Scout Association) in sufficient time to reach the Award Office at least 12 weeks before departure.

Explorer Belt Expeditions can often fulfill the criteria of an Other Adventurous Project.

In addition to this as a Scouting venture you will also be required to obtain a Visits Abroad Pack from you Assistant County/ Area Commissioner (International) and complete and return the Travel Abroad form for your expedition. A copy of the

Travel Abroad form should accompany the Blue Form being sent to Scout Headquarters.

Links

It is possible and desirable to fulfill requirements for sections of Chief Scout and Queen's Scout Awards at the same time as for The Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The Queen's Scout Award Expedition is very similar to the Expedition section of the Gold Award, The Chief Scouts Diamond Award to the Silver and the Chief Scouts Platinum Award to the Bronze. However, when trying to do this it is essential to check beforehand and ensure that you are meeting all of the criteria for both Awards.

Further Information

For more detailed information it is important that you consult the Award Handbook and the Expedition Guide. If you do not have copies of these, talk to your County Duke of Edinburgh's Award Adviser.

It is vital to do this and make sure you are fulfilling all the detailed requirements to avoid disappointment later.

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