

DofE - A Commissioner's Guide



Item Code FS120311 Jan/10 Edition no 1

0845 300 1818

Introduction

The purpose of this factsheet is to outline the responsibilities that a Commissioner has in supporting the provision of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) within their locality.

For more details about the DofE, and the criteria for various sections of the DofE, please refer to the DofE website <http://www.DofE.org/> or other factsheets which can be found at www.scouts.org.uk/dofe

Promotion

Accurate and constructive promotion of the DofE programme will enable more young people to have better access to the DofE within your area. Participation in a DofE programme gives young people the opportunity to help people and their community, get fitter, develop their skills, and go on an expedition; all things that Scouting encourages. The DofE, alongside Scouting Awards, gives them recognition of and pride in their efforts.

There are a range of tools available to support the promotion of the DofE within Scouting, free of charge, from The Scout Association information centre (contactable on the above details):

- Posters
- Perfect Match Flyer
- Support

Celebrating the achievement of those young people who complete sections of the DofE as well as the whole Award will produce interest in the DofE from Leaders, young people and parents. This can be done through the use of Section

Certificates as well as less formal methods of recognition.

As a Commissioner it is important to make sure that suitable occasions for celebrating achievement are available within your area. This will vary depending on the awards achieved and the young people.

People

There are a variety of roles in which people can support the provision of the DofE.

- Advisers – at both District and County Level there is the opportunity for a DofE Adviser. Their role is to support the provision within their area.
- Leaders – any Leader can be a DofE Leader so long as they have access to the right information and support. There is no compulsory training for Leaders, however there are many courses run by the DofE Regional Offices and The Scout Association that are openly available to our members. The basic one being Intro to the DofE, details of these courses can be found at www.scouts.org.uk/dofe and select training.
- Assessor – each section of the DofE requires an Assessor to sign the participants record book. This does not have to be someone who is formally appointed as an Assessor, just someone who has the right skills for the job. More information about who can sign off each section of the DofE can be found at www.scouts.org.uk/dofe
- Administrators – there is some administration associated with DofE. In some areas these tasks are completed by an administrator, allowing the Adviser to spend more time promoting DofE.

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

- Expedition Assessors - are adults who have the technical knowledge to assess young people on their expeditions - canoeing, hiking etc. They have all been trained and accredited by DofE.

Training

As noted previously there is no compulsory training for Advisers, Assessors and Leaders. However, all roles are strongly encouraged to complete the "Introduction to the DofE" course; and as courses run regularly within regions, this is designed as a follow on to the e- induction which can be found on the DofE website www.dofe.org. The only role that has a compulsory training requirement is that of Expedition Assessors; who are required to attend an Expedition Assessor Accreditation Course. These courses are run by both The Scout Association and also DofE regional offices.

Finance

There are some financial commitments required for participation in the DofE; however finance should never be a barrier to a person's participation in any Scouting Activity; and support for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds should be a priority for Districts and Counties. Expenses are minimal, the costs for individuals/sections etc. can be expected to come from:

- Welcome Packs – these are the largest out going by the young person. It should be noted however that the cost of the welcome pack includes a variety of things and not just the book. Included in the cost is: certificate, pin badge, discounts at the DofEs partner outdoor shops, insurance and at Gold level a presentation at a Royal Palace and the cost of the assessment for the expedition section. You may find that in your area some young people are unable to afford this cost and so a subsidy may need to be made.
- Badges – there are cloth D of E badges that can be worn on the uniform by members who have completed their DofE. These badges are available through the normal badge secretary route and

should be issued to young people on completion of DofE.

- Presentations – Gold Award holders are invited to a national presentation at a Royal Palace. It may be nice to arrange for local presentation of Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards; this may also be done in combination with Chief Scout and Queen's Scout Award Presentations.
- Start up – there are costs involved with starting up the DofE within a Unit or Network. This is mainly associated with purchasing resources such as the DofE Handbook.

Summary

Having a successful Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme running leads to stronger Scouting. Promoting the scheme in your area will be a benefit for young people and Adults alike. Resources and advice to help you do this are available from the Scout Information centre.