

The Gateway Award

Item Code FS250047 May 2008 Edition no 3

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The Scout Programme encourages young members to meet new challenges and to enhance their personal development. To enable the Members to enhance their experiences The Scout Association encourages them to take part in external award schemes, such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award or the Mencap Gateway Award.

The Mencap Gateway Award is a challenging and exciting programme of activities.

Anyone can take part in this Award from the age of 13 onwards, there is no upper age limit. The approach to this award is very flexible to allow for individual ability and the award is based on the principles of challenge and achievement for all.

This Award encourages greater integration, by the development of new approaches and methods, especially for those with special needs. It is designed to enhance the personal development of each individual and to increase their self confidence, giving the participants the opportunity to endeavor to work towards achieving their own goals and ambitions, at their own personal pace. It promotes personal choice and independence by encouraging full participation, integration and involvement within the community. It is designed to be flexible to meet the needs of each individual. The Gateway Award is not designed to

replace activities but to supplement the Scout Programme.

The **Mencap Gateway Award** comprises of three progressive but separate Awards:

- . **Bronze Award**
- . **Silver Award**
- . **Gold Award**

Direct entrants into the Gateway Award.

Participants would normally enter the Award at the Bronze level, working at their own pace, progressing to the Silver and Gold Awards, thus completing the full programme. It is possible however, for participants to commence the award as a direct entrant at the silver or gold level, if this was felt appropriate. The minimum age for direct entrants is 16 years for the Silver Award and 18 years for the Gold Award.

The Sections

Each award consists of five complimentary sections covering a wide range of adventurous, cultural and practical activities. Participants choose the activities they wish to take part in to achieve each section. To achieve a full Award each participant has to complete the requirements of each of the five sections.

The five sections comprise of:

- . **Hobbies.**

Participants are encouraged to develop

hobbies or interests of their own choice.

➤ **Service.**

This section promotes social awareness and service within the community.

➤ **Adventure Challenge.**

This promotes the discovery and development of a greater appreciation of the environment through adventure activities.

➤ **Physical Recreation.**

Participants are encouraged to develop an awareness of sport as a worthwhile recreational activity and as a part of a healthy lifestyle.

➤ **Lifestyle.**

The development of life skills, self-awareness and personal independence are encouraged through opportunities to make choices.

On enrolment, each participant receives a portfolio and a record book. The portfolio can be used as a personal record of achievements throughout the awards, whereas the record book is a more formal indication of the personal progress in achieving each of the awards.

It will be necessary for participants to receive appropriate guidance throughout the awards, from Leaders, supporters and assessors.

Once the participants have completed their Award they will receive a lapel badge and a certificate to mark their attainment but more importantly they will have the satisfaction of knowing that they have accomplished another challenge. For participants who, for whatever reasons, are unable to complete the full awards, sectional certificates are available.

The Guiding Principles

The Gateway Award is based on a number of guiding principles that respect each

person's right to full, active and equal participation in present day society.

➤ **Personal Development**

The Programme is designed to offer a challenge to individuals and to introduce them to new opportunities.

➤ **Community Involvement**

Participants are encouraged to seek out worthwhile contributions they can make to the community.

➤ **Making Choices**

There are opportunities for individuals to make choices and decisions about the particular activities and interests they have chosen to complete their awards.

➤ **Diversity**

Everyone is welcome to take part in the award and the diversity of each individual is respected.

➤ **Flexibility**

The Programme is flexible and balanced and can take account of local situations and individual differences.

➤ **Co-operation**

The award is intended to be a personal challenge for the individual and co-operation is encouraged rather than competitiveness.

➤ **Inclusion**

The award Programme provides opportunities for individuals to develop and equip themselves to play a more equal part in society.

➤ **Health**

The work required to achieve each award is intended to encourage participants to develop a healthy and active lifestyle.

➤ **Enjoyment**

It is intended that everyone, participants and those who support them, should be encouraged to enjoy their involvement with the Gateway Award.

The Gateway Award 8-13

The Gateway Award 8-13 is a new award programme available for those in the 8 to 13

age group. This award is based on similar principles to the Gateway Award.

Participants in the Gateway Award 8-13 choose sections from 4 activity zones to complete their awards. The zones are:

- **The active zone**
- **People and the planets zone**
- **The adventure zone**
- **Soundz Arty zone**

Participants gain a certificate and incentive (a pen, rubber, key ring or cloth badge) for each section they complete. When they complete 3 sections from each zone they receive the full 8-13 certificate and badge.

TeamWork Programme

A new Programme for those participants, who have completed their Gold Award, is also being developed by Mencap. This programme is aimed to enable participants to become team members, working to help others to achieve their awards, also to gain the skills required, again as a team member, in helping to run projects and events connected with the Gateway Award.

Working with tutor support, the TeamWork Programme will enhance the participant's personal development, furthering their skills in training, teamwork and decision-making.

The Gateway Award Scheme has been designed to be inclusive not exclusive, and can be used within Scouting to provide even greater opportunities to more young people. Mencap produce information leaflets and brochures that are available from the address below.

Further Information

Further information is on their web-site where you can get details about an Award Handbook and Leaders resource guide.

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