



**YOUTH
WITHOUT
LIMITS**

A PARENT AND CARER'S GUIDE TO THE DOFE AWARD

2026-2027

Duke of Edinburgh





GOLD

Volunteering **12** months

Physical

one section for
12 months, the

Skills

other for 6 months

*Direct entrants
must do a
further 6 months
in the Volunteering,
or the longer of the
Physical or Skills
sections.*

Expedition **4** days **3** nights



Residential **5** days **4** nights

The Expedition section

All the expeditions are run by an external APP provider called 'BXM Expeditions'

Tents and cooking equipment are provided by BXM for all participants

Roll mats and Rucksacks can be borrowed from the school



<https://www.bxmoutdoors.com/>



Expedition dates

GOLD PRACTICE

5th –9th APRIL Dark Peak

GOLD ASSESSMENT Snowdonia

11th -15TH JULY





Key Information- Expedition Dates

Gold

Training – 9th February 2027 (in School)

Practice – 6th- 10th April 2027 (The Peaks)

Assessment - 12th-16th July 2027 (South Snowdonia)

Key Information-Expedition Cost (The Peaks and Snowdonia)

£560

Payment Schedule

£50 October 31st

£170 November 30th

£170 December 31st

£170 January 31st



The Residential section

<https://www.dofe.org/opportunity-finder/opportunity-for-dofe-participant/?paged=1>



Residential ideas

Service to others

- ☐ Being a leader at a UK-based holiday camp for disadvantaged young people.
- ☐ Undertaking a voluntary teaching placement overseas.
- ☐ Being part of a service crew at a large summer camp for Brownies.
- ☐ Volunteering on a YHA residential summer camp.
- ☐ Volunteering at a residential summer school.
- ☐ Being an assistant to support an eco-friendly waste project at an outdoor education centre
- ☐ Helping out on a pilgrimage.

Environment and conservation

- ☐ Joining a tree planting project with your local environment trust.
- ☐ Attending a conference on climate change as a youth representative
- ☐ Helping the preservation team of a railway or canal
- ☐ Studying coral bleaching in Australia.
- ☐ Joining a National Trust working holiday and join different conservation projects in various locations across the UK.
- ☐ Taking part in a Field Studies course learning about biodiversity and conservation.

Learning

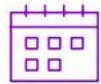
- ☐ Undertaking a cookery course.
- ☐ Doing a photography course and exhibiting your work.
- ☐ Taking part in a bushcraft residential.
- ☐ Spending time on a narrowboat and training towards becoming a skipper.
- ☐ Taking part in a field studies course.
- ☐ Learning to write and produce music and putting on a show.
- ☐ Taking part in an astronomy course, learning about constellations, black holes and solar systems.
- ☐ Taking part in a week-long Gaelic or Welsh language and culture course.

Activity based

- ☐ Taking part in a sport based residential developing your basketball skills.
- ☐ Taking part in multi-faith residential, studying different religions.
- ☐ Joining an ACF activity week with members of different detachments you don't know.
- ☐ Learning to snowboard on an intensive course in Scotland.
- ☐ Joining an historical re-enactment society

Key requirements

The Key Requirements



Duration

A minimum of five days and four nights consecutively.



Daytime activities

Learning or developing a skill, training for a qualification, or volunteering with a group.



Evening activities

Spent with the group, whether organised activities or socialising and cooking together.



People

Five or more people in the group (including you, and in addition to course leaders) that you don't know, and who don't know each other, doing the same activity or role as each other. An Assessor needs to be identified on the residential and engaged with during your time there.



Residential

Organisation

- Must be with an organised group, registered charity or Approved Activity Provider.

Activity

- The activity should take up the majority of the day.
- The activity should start by noon on the first day and finish at the earliest mid-afternoon on the last day (if the minimum five days).

Training

- You should research your activity, skill or organisation before attending.
- Pre-residential training with the group, if essential, can be completed.

Approval

- Your DofE Leader and Licensed Organisation must approve the residential beforehand.

Residential

People

- You may know a few other people as long as:
 - you are joining a large group.
 - the vast majority are people not known to you or to each other.
 - you can be separated from the others that you know.
- You shouldn't know any of the staff, unless you can be separated from them.
- Other members of the group can be of any age and they don't need to be doing their DofE.
- Carers are allowed, if needed. Participants will need to agree this in advance with their Licensed Organisation.

Accommodation

- You don't have to stay in the same accommodation each night, as long as the group is travelling and staying together.

What won't count

WHAT WON'T COUNT!



Accommodation

- Homestays or staying separately from the group.
- Staying with relatives or friends.



Daytime activities

- Your practice or qualifying expedition.
- Being paid, internships or work experience.
- Volunteering with a commercial organisation.
- Academic or school curriculum trips.
- Going on holiday.



People

- School or youth group trips.
- Booking with friends, unless you know you are joining a large group and they are able to separate you during the daytime and evening activities.

Need more Information?

<https://www.dofe.org/>

