

# The Duke of Edinburgh's Award



## Introduction

This is the 4th edition of the factsheet replacing that dated May 1998.

## 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 (with its emphasis on Service, Expeditions, Skills and Physical Recreation) has an affinity with Scouting which makes it attractive to young people in Scouting. Due to its age range it can form a link between Sections, young Leaders and the Scout Fellowship.

There are three Awards; Bronze for those 14 and over, Silver for those 15 and over and Gold for those 16 and over. 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 uniform and a certificate. Subject to the age requirements, young people may enter the Award at whichever level is best suited to them. If they progress through the Awards, some reductions in time requirements may be 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.

## Service

The aim this section is to encourage service to others 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
- ◆ care for the environment
- ◆ accept responsibility

There are now no groupings in this Section, although if the form of service is shown as having a training course or qualification, then this should be completed. Service must cover the minimum number of months and all forms of service require some form of practical involvement.

## 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 a purpose and undertaken on foot, by cycle, on horseback, or in canoes or boats by participants' own physical effort and without motorised assistance. All challenges are expressed in terms of physical demands by travelling for a given number of kilometres, miles or hours.

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 the relevant authorisation is required for all Scout activities where applicable.

At all levels, Explorations may be undertaken instead. These give greater emphasis to the purpose or discovery element by reducing the emphasis on the journeying. This often includes a more detailed study. For further information on explorations refer to the Exploration Resource Pack.

At Gold level it is possible to undertake an "Other Adventurous Project", which is at least as demanding as a normal Gold level expedition/exploration, 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 Headquarters via Scout Headquarters at least 3 months prior to the event.

Further information and requirements may be found in the Award Handbook, Expedition Guide or Exploration Resource Pack.

## Skills

The aim of this section is to encourage the discovery and development of personal interests, and social and practical skills. It should stimulate young people to take up and persevere at satisfying and purposeful pursuits within a wide range of practical, cultural and social activities.

The skills section should offer participants the opportunity to:

- ◆ develop social and practical skills
- ◆ meet people
- ◆ get organised
- ◆ discover how to research information

- ◆ try something new
- ◆ make real progress
- ◆ learn to enjoy working with others
- ◆ develop abilities
- ◆ have fun
- ◆ discover new talents and raise self-esteem

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 Skills File is not exhaustive and the programmes are for guidance only and are not intended to be a rigid syllabus. Further details may be found in the Skills File folder or the Award Handbook.

## Physical Recreation

The aim of this section is to encourage participation in a physical activity and improvement of performance. 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 a 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 agree the content and appropriate targets. Wherever possible, 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:

- ◆ experience an unfamiliar environment
- ◆ build new relationships and show concern for others
- ◆ work as part of a team towards shared goals
- ◆ accept responsibility for and to each other
- ◆ develop communication skills
- ◆ show initiative
- ◆ enjoy living and working with others

The project must last at least 5 days and 4 nights. 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. Further information may be found in the Award Handbook.

### Methods

There are some differences in the methods of the Association's training schemes and those 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 group. For any expedition in designated wild country, the appropriate Award Expedition Panel for the area being visited must be notified at least 3 to 4 months in advance. These panels can provide considerable guidance and are also available to assess Gold Award Expeditions free of charge. (Some will also assess Silver ventures, but may make a small charge)

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 Movement, 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 Adviser for The Duke of Edinburgh's Award. When this is issued the date is recorded in the record book and currently no activities which are counted towards the Award must commence before this date. This may change to allow one or two activities to count before the date recorded in the record book.

**It is important to note that no qualifications gained are permitted to count for an Award before enrolment to the Scheme.**

### 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.

At Bronze level on completion of the Award, the record book should be signed by the District Adviser.

At Silver level on completion of the Award, the record book should be signed by 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 Scout Headquarters for verification. For participants from Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales this is through their respective Scout Headquarters. These are then sent to The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Headquarters who then confirm the Award and send the badge 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 Headquarters 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. Inquiries concerning the operation of the Award and matters of policy should be addressed to the Coordinator for The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Programme and Development Department, Gilwell Park, Bury Road, Chingford, London E4 7QW. Entrance Packs and Award Handbooks along with free promotional literature are available from the Award Scheme Limited via your County Adviser.

### **Publications Cross Reference**

Award Handbook	(The Duke of Edinburgh's Award 2000)
Skills Skills	(The Duke of Edinburgh's Award 2000)
Expedition Guide	(The Duke of Edinburgh's Award 1999)