

# The Duke of Edinburgh's Award - Expeditions



0845 300 1818

## Introduction

This is the second edition of this factsheet with changes resulting from the Award 2000 – The Duke of Edinburgh's Award new programme.

## General

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

## Outline Conditions

There are three types of qualifying venture:

- ◆ Expeditions – which have journeying as their principle component.
- ◆ Explorations – which involve less journeying and a greater proportion of time spent on approved, first hand investigations or other specified activities. Explorations must take place as part of a journey.
- ◆ Other Adventurous Projects (Gold Only) – which are of equal or more demanding nature but which depart from the specified conditions.

## Methods of Travel

At each level you may choose how you are going to travel - walking, cycling, canoeing, horse riding, sailing or rowing are all acceptable.

## The Process

After an initial briefing, participants must undertake appropriate training. (Guidance can be found in the Award Handbook and the Expedition Guide)

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

The qualifying venture must have a purpose and be undertaken in an appropriate number in a group numbering between four and seven.

All participants must complete a report related to the purpose of the venture.

## 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 expedition/exploration with at least six hours planned activity every day, in normal rural countryside or on appropriate water. If the expedition is on foot, it must be at least 24km/15 miles.

**SILVER** – Three day expedition/exploration 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, it must be at least 48km/30 miles.

**GOLD** – Four day expedition/exploration or other adventurous project with at least eight hours planned activity in wild or open country or on appropriate water. If the expedition is on foot, it must be at least 80km/50 miles.

## 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.

This practice journey must not be over the same route or in a similar vicinity of 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 journeys in wild country it is important to complete a Green Expedition Notification form as early as possible. The reason for this is to notify the appropriate Wild Country Panel for The Duke of Edinburgh's Award about where you will be and when.

For Assessment journeys Wild Country Panels may be able to provide Assessors at no extra cost if asked early enough.

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 group must hold a relevant Authorisation 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.

### Links

It is possible to fulfill requirements for sections of Scout Awards as well as for The Duke of Edinburgh's Award. For example, the Queen's Scout Award Expedition is very similar to the Gold Award. However, when trying to do this it is vital 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

#### From The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Award Handbook

Expedition Guide

Exploration and Resource Pack

#### From The Scout Association

FS120401 Authorisation Scheme for Hillwalking and Mountain Biking

FS120601 Authorisation Scheme for Water Activities