

# Bronze DofE Award Expectations and Commitments

## Deciding on Skills, Physical and Volunteering Sections

To complete your Bronze DofE Award, you need to undertake Skills, Physical and Volunteering Sections. There are lots of ideas for the different Sections on the DofE website. For instance, you could do:

- **Skills:** glass painting; gardening; cookery; bee keeping; reading; pet care; coding; playing a musical instrument; photography; learning a foreign language; bike maintenance. Your Skill cannot be playing a sport; this can only be used for your Physical section.
- **Physical:** team sport (e.g. football); racquet sport (e.g. tennis); martial arts (e.g. judo); individual sport (e.g. running, archery); water sport (e.g. swimming, canoeing); extreme sport (e.g. climbing, ice skating); dance; gymnastics.
- **Volunteering:** litter picking; sports coaching; youth work (e.g. helping at Beavers or Rainbows); conservation work; volunteering in a charity shop; St John Ambulance.

You don't have to start new activities; they can be things you already do. The activities for your different Sections cannot be school lessons, but can be after school clubs, such as Maths Club.

You need to spend **an hour a week on each Section**. You must do one Section for 6 months, and two Sections for 3 months. You need to decide when and where you will do these Sections, and who will assess you. Your assessor cannot be a family member, but a family member can help you complete an Activity Log (for instance recording when you have cooked at home, or gone for an independent run), which someone else can use as the basis for assessing you. If you are stuck for an assessor, you can ask Miss Scane or another teacher – but check with them before putting them down! You cannot have the same assessor for all 3 sections.

**This information all needs to be on your DofE Enrolment Form.** You will only be able to enrol on DofE with a complete form. The **deadline** for submitting your form is **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November**.

## Starting your Sections

We will help you to log into the eDofE website in the autumn term. You will then use your Enrolment Form to upload information about your Sections on to eDofE. Miss Scane will check and 'Approve' your activities on eDofE. You should keep a log of each time you do your activity on an '**Activity Log**' sheet, available from the school website. You also need to **regularly upload evidence**, such as photos of you doing your activity or of your Activity Log, on to eDofE.

**By 31<sup>st</sup> January, information about all of your Sections** needs to be uploaded on to eDofE and approved by Miss Scane. You should also have **started all of your Sections**, and uploaded **at least one piece of evidence**, such as a photo, to prove this.

## Finishing your Sections

When you have finished your Section, you or your assessor will upload your Assessor's Report on to eDofE. Miss Scane will then check this, and approve it.

**By 30<sup>th</sup> April**, you should have uploaded at least **one Assessor's Report** to eDofE. By the **31<sup>st</sup> May**, a **Second Assessor's report** should also have been uploaded to eDofE. The **final Assessor's Report** should be uploaded by **10<sup>th</sup> July**.

If you have any difficulties with undertaking or completing your Sections, or with uploading your Assessor's Reports, you will need to speak with Miss Scane as soon as possible. Unfortunately, in rare cases students are not

able to enrol on DofE or to go on the expeditions because they have not demonstrated the necessary commitment to achieving their Bronze Award.

## **The Practice and Qualifying Expeditions**

You will need to attend the weekly training sessions with Miss Scane and Dr Hicks in order to train and plan with your group in preparation for the Practice and Qualifying Expeditions. You will cover topics such as First Aid, putting up tents, cooking on a gas stove and appropriate DofE equipment.

We have made our expedition plans as flexible as possible to allow for any government changes due to coronavirus. Our hope is that we will be able to run the qualifying expedition as a residential trip to allow the students to camp overnight. However, we are aware the guidance from the government could change in this regard. This could mean that the qualifying expedition becomes non-residential if that is what the guidance suggests. We will try to give families as much notice as possible.

- Training for the expeditions will be on Tuesdays after school in term 4.
- The **Practice Expedition** will take place around **Watlington** from 9:00 am on Saturday **21<sup>st</sup> May 2022** until approximately 4.30 pm.
- The **Qualifying Expedition** will take place around **South Oxfordshire** from 9.00 am on Saturday **16<sup>th</sup> July** until approximately 4.30 pm on Sunday **17<sup>th</sup> July 2022**.

There will be a Parents' Expedition Briefing to provide more detailed information about both expeditions, including kit requirements.

## **How much will it cost?**

We try to keep costs as low as possible. Our costs go towards necessary expenses such as being a Licensed Provider of DofE, the enrolment fee, training costs, camping fees, equipment costs, minibus hire and petrol. This year, **the cost is £93**.

## **How can families support students?**

Bronze DofE gives you the opportunity to demonstrate what you can achieve independently, but your family can play a really important role in supporting you to achieve your award. They can for instance help you to choose your Sections, sign your Activity Log, and help you to organise your kit or plan your meals for Expeditions. You also need to arrange to be dropped off and collected from the start and end points of your Expeditions. We really encourage lift shares!

## **What next?**

If you are committed to achieving your Bronze DofE Award, you need to work out a team of 4 – 7 members (including you!) for your Expedition, and decide what you will do for your Skills, Physical and Volunteering Sections. **Once you have got this information, please complete the online enrolment form and submit the payment to the Finance Office.**

Blank Activity Logs, as well as further guidance on Sections and the Expeditions, can be found on the school website, under 'Student Information' and then 'Duke of Edinburgh Award'.