



A parent / carer's guide to The Duke of Edinburgh's Award



What is the DofE?



What is the DofE?

The DofE is the world's leading achievement award for young people.

It's about going the extra mile – learning new skills for work and life, getting fitter, making a difference and broadening your horizons.

- Non-competitive
- Achievable by all
- Voluntary
- Personal development
- Personalised
- Balanced
- Progressive
- Achievement focused
- Demand commitment
- Fun



Do you want to do SILVER?

Next Steps



1. Complete Bronze

- Complete at least 2 Bronze sections in order to be able to be signed up for SILVER.
- Assessor reports must be labelled as assessor reports.
- Evidence must have start and end date (full calendar months).

Register for Silver

- Letters to participants went in the Summer Term. Once submitted and paid, this was your registration date. You are able to start your SILVER sections from this date.

Silver Award



There are **loads of activities** to choose from — most activities can count towards a DofE programme. Take a look at our website for ideas: DofE.org/do/activities.

- Activities could be something that young people are **already doing** or something **completely new** – and there are lots of possibilities that can be done from home or under social distancing.
- **Weekend, lunch and after school** clubs and activities will count.
- Minimum **one hour a week** per section. A whole programme will take a minimum of **six months** to complete.
- A chosen Assessor will need to **write a short statement when they've finished each section**. This could be a family friend, neighbour, coach or teacher (not a relative).

Silver (Year 10+)	Volunteering 6 months	Physical 6 or 3 months	Skills 6 or 3 months	Expedition 3 days 2 nights
	Physical and Skills sections: one section for 6 months and the other section for 3 months			
	If you didn't do Bronze, you must do a further 6 months in either the Volunteering or the longer of the Physical or Skills sections.			

Volunteering

Volunteering's all about taking action and making a difference to other people's lives.

From coaching a local football team or collecting for a foodbank to starting a campaign, young people will give up their time to help others and change things for the better.

It's extremely rewarding, grows confidence and independence — and can enable a young person to experience the world of work too.

Young people must not be replacing paid labour i.e. they cannot volunteer for commercial organisations.

Over

3/4

Feel happier
because volunteering
gave them more
confidence

88%

Believe volunteering
helps them feel more
satisfied in life

96%

Say volunteering
gave them a sense
of achievement



Physical

The Physical section is a chance for young people to focus on their health and fitness and have fun along the way.



This might be the push needed for a young person to try something completely different or concentrate and improve on something they are already doing.

From yoga to going to the gym, skateboarding to wheelchair tennis — almost any dance, sport or fitness activity can count.

And doing more physical activity can help support mental health.

Young people can join a team or do it on their own — it's up to them!



Skills

From coding to cookery, the Skills section lets young people learn a new talent, develop existing skills and discover new things to love.

By developing practical and social skills and gaining interests and talents, young people will enjoy themselves and get a real sense of achievement.

If they're interested in a specific field, this could be the perfect chance to do something related to it.

They'll grow their confidence and show they're committed, motivated and can rise to a challenge.



Expedition

Getting into the great outdoors and spending a night away with friends – a DofE expedition will give young people lifelong memories.

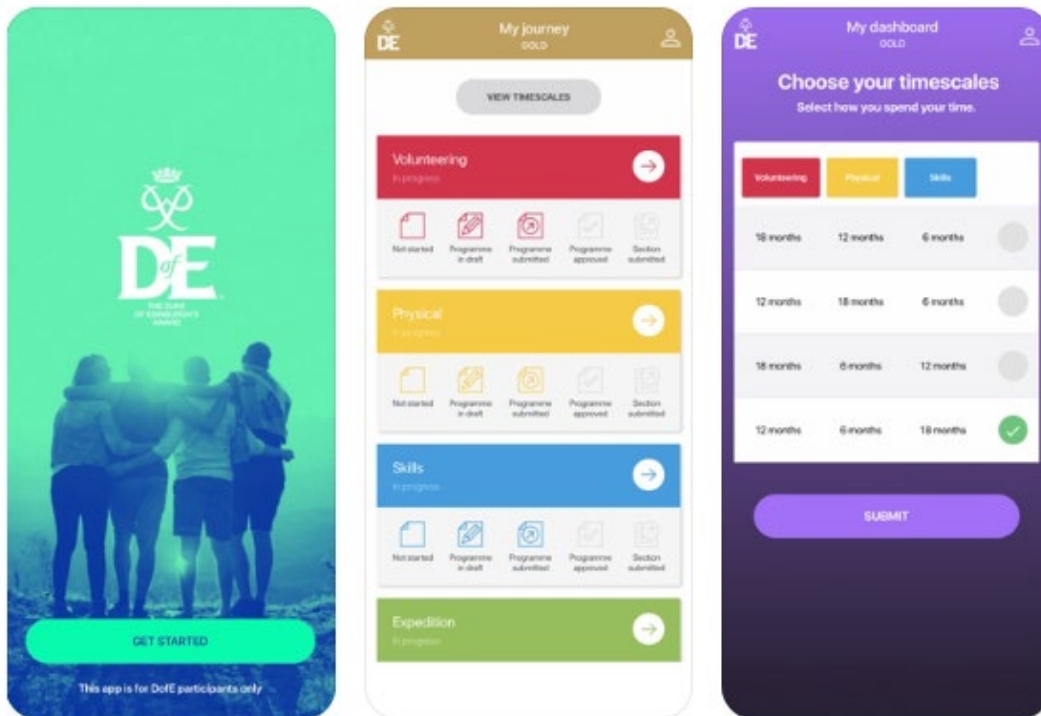
As part of a small team, they will plan their aim, choose their location, do some training to make sure they're prepared and know what they are doing — then spend three days and two nights away.

The expedition will improve resilience, communication, teamwork and leadership skills.

They might come home with a rucksack full of washing — and experiences they won't forget.



The DofE app



The DofE app is available for free from the App Store on iPhones and Google Play on Android phones.

Participants can use the DofE app to plan activities, get approval from Leaders, record evidence, submit programmes for completion and more.

Plus, it can sync important dates to your phone calendar and add the personalised DofE Card to the digital wallet, to make the most of the exclusive discounts.

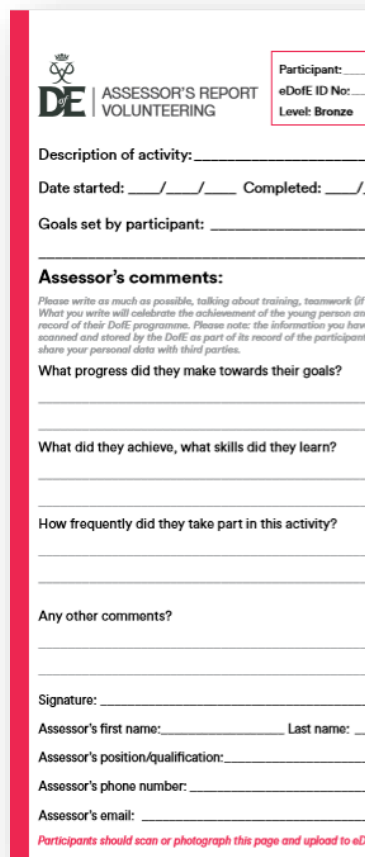
Assessor's Reports

Once a young person has completed their time requirement for a section, they need to obtain an Assessor's Report.

The Assessor's Report needs to be completed by the Assessor (e.g. Leader, teacher, coach etc.).

It can be written by hand using the report card in the young person's Welcome Pack (which they will receive in the post when they first enrol), or via the DofE Assessor portal at DofE.org/Assessor.

Welcome Pack



DE | ASSESSOR'S REPORT
VOLUNTEERING

Participant: _____
eDofE ID No: _____
Level: Bronze

Description of activity: _____
Date started: ____/____/____ Completed: ____/____/____
Goals set by participant: _____

Assessor's comments:
Please write as much as possible, talking about training, teamwork (if applicable) and what you write will celebrate the achievement of the young person and record of their DofE programme. Please note: the information you have scanned and stored by the DofE as part of its record of the participant's share your personal data with third parties.

What progress did they make towards their goals?

What did they achieve, what skills did they learn?

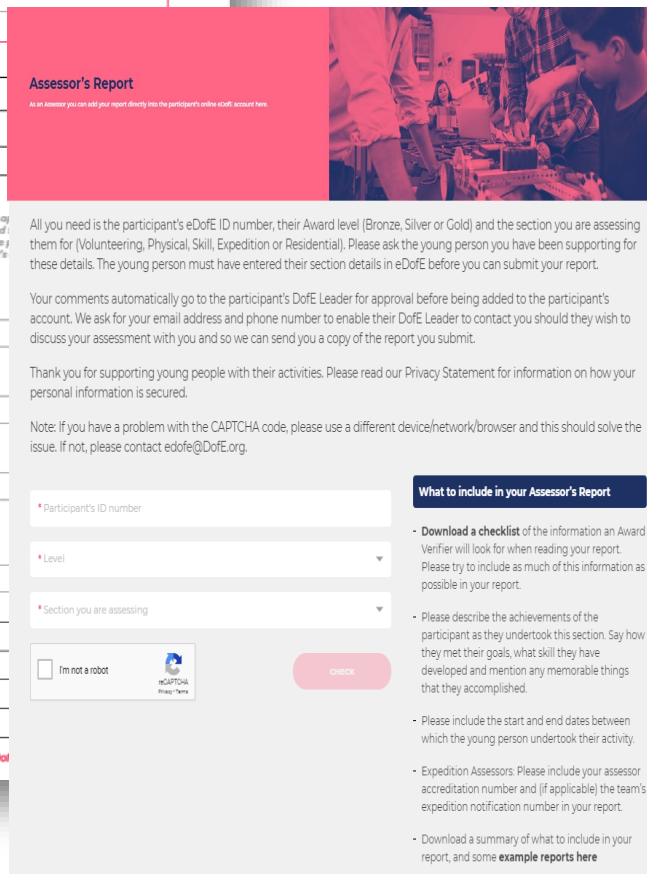
How frequently did they take part in this activity?

Any other comments?

Signature: _____
Assessor's first name: _____ Last name: _____
Assessor's position/qualification: _____
Assessor's phone number: _____
Assessor's email: _____

Participants should scan or photograph this page and upload to eDofE

Assessor portal



Assessor's Report
As an Assessor you can add your report directly into the participant's online eDofE account here.

All you need is the participant's eDofE ID number, their Award level (Bronze, Silver or Gold) and the section you are assessing them for (Volunteering, Physical, Skill, Expedition or Residential). Please ask the young person you have been supporting for these details. The young person must have entered their section details in eDofE before you can submit your report.

Your comments automatically go to the participant's DofE Leader for approval before being added to the participant's account. We ask for your email address and phone number to enable their DofE Leader to contact you should they wish to discuss your assessment with you and so we can send you a copy of the report you submit.

Thank you for supporting young people with their activities. Please read our [Privacy Statement](#) for information on how your personal information is secured.

Note: If you have a problem with the CAPTCHA code, please use a different device/network/browser and this should solve the issue. If not, please contact edofe@DofE.org.

What to include in your Assessor's Report

- Participant's ID number
- Level
- Section you are assessing
- Download a [checklist](#) of the information an Award Verifier will look for when reading your report. Please try to include as much of this information as possible in your report.
- Please describe the achievements of the participant as they undertook this section. Say how they met their goals, what skill they have developed and mention any memorable things that they accomplished.
- Please include the start and end dates between which the young person undertook their activity.
- Expedition Assessors: Please include your assessor accreditation number and (if applicable) the team's expedition notification number in your report.
- Download a summary of what to include in your report, and some [example reports here](#)

Choosing Assessors

An Assessor checks on your progress and agrees the completion of a section of your programme. They must be independent. Therefore, they cannot be a member of your family.

An Assessor can be anyone who is interested in helping you to achieve, has some knowledge of the activity you are doing and can be available over the time you're doing it. They will produce or sign off the relevant Assessor's report for that section, which is uploaded into eDofE.

From the local football club coach to a neighbour who's a web designer to the conservation expert leading a residential week, just about anyone can be an Assessor for the Volunteering, Physical, Skills and Residential sections.

Parental role

Guidance

- Provide guidance and support on activities, kit and Assessor choices.

Encouragement

- It can be challenging to keep the motivation going, especially over some of the longer timeframes.

Expedition support

- You may be required to drop off/collect from expeditions... and also wash the kit when it comes home!

Reminders

- Keep them on track with their activities, particularly those which are being done from home.

Recognise their achievements

- We hope all organisations will recognise the amazing achievement, and it is just as important to receive that recognition from family members.



The Silver Award 2023-24



- 10 Training Sessions –January to April 2024
Thursday 3-4pm. Venue TBC.
- Attendance is compulsory
- Volunteering, Physical and Skill sections
 - **MUST BE COMPLETED** before the actual expedition in July 2024

JULY 2024

Silver Actual Expedition - Peak District



Details

Day 1

Sunday, 14 July 2024

Day 2

Monday, 15 July 2024

Day 3

Tuesday, 16 July 2024

Kit Essentials – to be provided by STUDENTS

Day rucksack

Walking boots

2 pairs of socks

Waterproof coat and trousers

Water

Food/snacks

1st aid kit

Warm layer(s) (NO JEANS or HOODIES)

Sun hat/winter hat

Expectations – 20 Conditions

Respect the environment and the general public.

Exceptional conduct

Team work

The 20 Conditions of the Expedition section

DofE qualifying expedition conditions

Planning the expedition	1	The team must plan and organise the expedition; all members of the team should be able to describe the role they have played in planning.	
	2	The expedition must have an aim. The aim can be set by the Leader at Bronze level only.	
	3	All participants must be within the qualifying age of the programme level and at the same Award level (i.e. not have completed the same or higher level of expedition).	
	4	There must be between four and seven participants in a team (eight for modes of travel which have tandem)	
	5	The expedition should take place in the recommended environment.	
		Bronze: Expeditions should be in normal rural countryside – familiar and local to groups.	Silver: Expeditions should be in normal rural, open countryside or forest – unfamiliar to groups.
	6	Accommodation must be by camping or other simple self-catering accommodation (e.g. camping barns or bunkhouses).	
	7	The expedition must be of the correct duration and meet the minimum hours of planned activity.	
		Bronze: A minimum of 2 days, 1 night; 6 hours planned activity each day.	Silver: A minimum of 3 days, 2 nights; 7 hours planned activity each day.
			Gold: A minimum of 4 days, 3 nights; 8 hours planned activity each day.
Training and practice	8	All expeditions must be supervised by an adult (the Expedition Supervisor) who is able to accept responsibility for the safety of the team.	
	9	Assessment must be by an accredited Assessor. At Bronze level only, the Assessor may also be the Expedition Supervisor.	
	10	Expeditions will usually take place between the end of March and the end of October. They may take place outside this period, if so, non-camping accommodation options should be considered.	
During the expedition	11	Participants must be adequately trained to safely undertake a remotely supervised expedition in the environment in which they will be operating.	
		Bronze: Teams must complete the required training.	Silver: Teams must complete the required training and a practice expedition of a minimum 2 days, 2 nights.
			Gold: Teams must complete the required training and a practice expedition of a minimum 2 days, 2 nights
	12	All expeditions must be by the participants' own physical effort, without motorised or outside assistance. Mobility aids may be used where appropriate to the needs of the participant.	
	13	All expeditions must be unaccompanied and self-sufficient. The team must be properly equipped, and supervision must be carried out remotely.	
	14	Teams must possess the necessary physical fitness, first aid and expedition skills required to complete their expedition safely.	
	15	Groups must adhere to a mobile phone use policy as agreed with their Expedition Supervisor and Assessor. This agreement should also include use of other electronic equipment.	
	16	Participants must behave responsibly with respect for their team members, Leaders, the public and animals.	
Post expedition	17	Groups must understand and adhere to the Countryside /Scottish Outdoor Access, Highway and Water Sports Codes (as appropriate).	
	18	Participants must plan an appropriate expedition menu, including cooking and eating a substantial hot meal on each day. This is optional on the final day.	
	19	Participants must actively participate in a debrief with their Assessor at the end of the expedition.	
	20	At Silver and Gold level, a presentation must be prepared and delivered after the expedition.	

Important to KNOW the 20 Conditions