



Essential information for the Bronze Award

Bronze Award Programme (14+ years old)			
Volunteering	Physical	Skill	Expedition
3 months	3 months	3 months	Plan and train for and complete a 2 day, 1 night expedition
All participants must undertake a further 3 months in the Volunteering, Physical or Skills section.			

To attain the award each young person will have to commit to and complete work towards a goal in three areas, volunteering, physical and a skill. As well as this pupils will also complete a training day, a practise expedition and a qualifying expedition.

As parents you need to be aware that, as with all school trips, there is an element of risk in the expeditions. While on expedition, accommodation will be by camping. Students will be cooking using camp stoves. They will be walking through unfamiliar countryside. Due to the nature and requirements of DofE expeditions, students may not be with an adult at all times and will be supervised remotely from a distance. A full risk assessment is carried out for each expedition.

Parents should be aware that it is school policy that participation in a trip will be dependent on staff feeling confident that your son/daughter will behave appropriately and can be trusted to complete the expedition safely. In particular, poor behaviour between now and the date of the expeditions is likely to result in your child being withdrawn, progress in the award will be halted and they will be deferred until the next Bronze cohort joins next year. The decision of the Headteacher on this matter is final.

The expeditions

We have had an overwhelming response to the award this year and the number of participants in the Bronze Award meant that we will have to split the group and have multiple expeditions. In anticipation that this might happen, we have already built this into the calendar. We will split the group into either two or three roughly equal groups when the expeditions have been finalised in the spring.

Additional costs you need to plan for:

- Food on each of the weekends
- Personal kit – see the attached recommended kit list (A very limited amount of personal kit is available for those who are unable to provide their own, e.g. sleeping bags, sleeping mats, waterproofs.)



Please do not go out and buy all of the equipment listed on the kit list at this stage. We will be holding a kit demo evening at GoOutdoors in the spring where the staff there will open the store for Bewdley students, talk them through the kit available and offer extra discounts on top of their discount card for DofE students.

We will provide:

Group kit (tents, rucksacks, cooking equipment, fuel, maps, compasses, etc.)

We will be organising a training day for the students which is a requirement of the award in order to complete the expedition section safely and in addition may run a number of workshops (in school/after school) to help, guide and support the students through the process to successfully obtain their award. It is essential that students attend these sessions or they will not get the full benefit of the training and may not be able to complete the award. Details of these sessions will be posted on the school's website when finalised.

Keeping up with commitments to the award

I am aware that some students start on their DofE Bronze Award very keen to go on expedition, but fall behind on the other sections in the award and fail to complete it. To reduce the likelihood of this happening, we have communicated a number of deadlines with the students. These will be checked regularly on the online eDofE system. While we will make every effort to remind students of these deadlines, the responsibility for meeting them rests on the students shoulders and is a large part of what makes the award so desirable to employers and colleges.

In order to be eligible to take part in the expeditions, students will have to show their commitment to completing the volunteering, physical and skills sections. Failure to do this may mean that their expedition is deferred until next year.

More information

If you want more information about the award please check the DofE website where you'll find lots of information about the different sections of the award including suggestions for activities that could be chosen, as well as recommended kit lists and suppliers.

If you have any questions about The Duke of Edinburgh Awards at Bewdley please get in touch with me or a member of the team.

Chris Beech
Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator
The Bewdley School