



How to get the most from your Gold Award



The DofE is one of the most enjoyable and valuable activities you can do as a young adult. A DofE Award is highly valued and recognised by colleges, universities and employers.

How to succeed at Gold

Don't stop

The most common reason for a young person to not complete their DofE is if they don't complete one of their sectional activities – often they only have a few weeks or months to go.

Don't stop when you leave school, you have until your 25th birthday to finish. Simply find a local place where you can continue your activities. Universities have lots of clubs and societies and you can easily move your eDofE account to be with your new group. Find a local contact at www.DofE.org/takepart.

Bring down the cost

The DofE's Opportunities Finder has lots of residential and expedition opportunities run by charities and local government which are subsidised, run at no profit or have grants available. Check it out: www.DofE.org/finder.

Use an open expedition

If you need to do a practice or qualifying expedition but don't have a team then you can join an open expedition. They are run all over the UK and the world, you can find them here: www.DofE.org/finder.

Do something amazing

Your Gold DofE is your opportunity to show the world how good you are. Think big, fundraise and embark on activities you really care about – across the UK, or even overseas!

From fundraising for a charity to volunteering on a respite camp for disadvantaged children, this is your chance to really do something special. Most important of all, choose something you'll enjoy, not just something easy – you'll be much more likely to see it through to the end.

You can find downloads to help choose and evidence sectional activities at www.DofE.org/sections.

Your parents can sign up to receive a useful newsletter with more information and support on your DofE programme at:

www.tinyurl.com/DofEparentnews.



Support for your parents/carers...

Ask your parents to sign up below and they could win £1,500 for your school/DofE centre and £250 of expedition kit for you.

We'd like to tell your parents more about what the DofE offers you as well as the great offers we have from our partners. The breadth and range might surprise you all!

To receive these emails and enter the prize draw please ask your parents to provide their email address in the survey below.

They will be entered into a termly prize draw to win £1,500 of outdoor kit for your school or DofE centre and a further £250 of kit for you, thanks to Cotswold Outdoor, our Recommended Retailer of expedition kit.

Win
£1,750
worth of kit

Visit
www.surveymonkey.com/r/kit-win
to enter our free draw.

For closing date click on the link above. You can unsubscribe from our emails at any time.

Remember to give your parents their DofE Reward Card so that they and you can benefit from the 15% off at Cotswold Outdoor.



Helping with your Expedition section

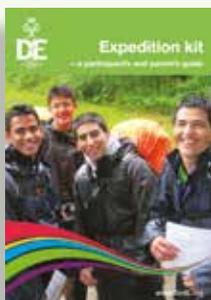
Here are three ways we help you get started...

15% off expedition kit

You'll receive a DofE Reward Card in your *Welcome Pack*. The card gives **15% off** all full price items at Cotswold Outdoor all year round, both in store and online.



Remember to give your parents/carers their Reward Card so they can get 15% off purchases for the whole family. Use the AF code on the back of the card when buying online or take your card into a store. The card lasts for three years, so you can still use it even after you have completed your DofE. For more information and T&Cs, go to www.DofEShopping.org.



Expedition kit guide – for participants and parents

This free kit guide helps you to find the right kit for your expedition. It is also full of money saving ideas, expert hints and tips for making your kit last longer and suggests how to get the best value for money.

View it online or download it at:

www.DofEShopping.org/kitadvice.

The DofE Recommended Kit List

This is the essential checklist of all the kit needed for a DofE expedition. You should use it when gathering kit together and when packing your rucksack before leaving for your practice or qualifying expeditions.

View it online or download it at:

www.DofEShopping.org/kitadvice.



You have the power to change a young person's life

People think the DofE is just about expeditions. It's true – there can be a bit of this but what we really equip you for is your future.

Our small charity (which sits behind the scenes of your own DofE group) simply doesn't have the resources to reach all the young people whose lives we know would be transformed by taking part.

With your support we could help more young people eager to change their life for the better if given the chance.

Will you use your Volunteering section to fundraise and help a young person from a disadvantaged community, who has had a challenging start in life, turn their life around through the DofE? This could be by raising money for the DofE Charity or supporting a local group or young person.

By raising even a modest amount, you can help another young person to enjoy the adventure you have had.

You really could help change a life.

Thank you!



Visit www.DofE.org/downloads today for fun, fundraising advice.



Take the lead

As a Gold DofE participant you can use your Volunteering section to support Bronze and Silver participants in your group.

The DofE also runs leadership courses which can be used for your Residential section – find out more here: www.DofE.org/go/DofElp.

Do you have a special skill or interest?

Inspire Bronze and Silver participants to choose this as an activity for their DofE – and motivate and support them to complete their section.

Be an Assessor...

You could also be an Assessor for DofE participants who want to use your specialist skill as an activity for their DofE. It's straightforward to get involved and is very rewarding. Find out more at www.DofE.org/go/assessing.

Expedition support...

Help on expeditions by being at checkpoints to meet DofE teams with their Supervisor and be another person to help make it all run smoothly.

Life after Gold...

If you've done your Gold you're a DofE expert and you could be a great DofE Leader or Expedition Assessor.

Help others to get the benefits you've gained – find out more at www.DofE.org/takepart.

Visit the **LifeZone** for hints and tips on how you can use your volunteering experience in job applications and continue your activities once you've achieved your Award.

Find out more at www.DofELifeZone.info.



"The heart-warming feeling you get from volunteering is well worth the experience and it provides you with lifelong skills and a sense of wellbeing that everyone should feel."

Beth Howes, Gold Award holder, training to become a young DofE Leader.

Up to 35% off for you and your family

Helping you helps us...

We need to raise an extra £15 for every child who starts their DofE programme so we have negotiated some great deals for you with a range of partners.



How does this help us? The DofE receives a royalty every time you make a purchase; so everybody wins.

Look out for discounts from some of our partners, including...



We are adding partners regularly so keep checking DofE Shopping for the best offers.

Competitions

From expedition kit to computers, days out to holidays to win, there is always a competition you can enter at www.DofEShopping.org.



Please encourage your parents to sign up for our monthly newsletters to take advantage of our best deals and seasonal offers. www.tinyurl.com/DofEparentnews.



A Gold DofE Award will give you the edge in the world of work

You might already be thinking about jobs, what a 'career' looks like, and earning money. In fact, you might be working right now. Or, it all might feel a bit far off in the future. Whatever your situation, we want you to know one thing; major employers value and are committed to employing young people who've done their DofE.

By doing your DofE, you'll make your community a better place to live. You'll be fitter, healthier and happier. You'll know your talents, and keep honing them. And you'll have a spirit of adventure and teamwork.

We want you to feel like you can go out and make your mark in the world of work. We've gathered more ideas and tips about how you can talk about your DofE experience in interviews and applications – and loads more 'inside stories' about businesses that support the DofE Charity and believe in the DofE.

You can check them out on the LifeZone, the DofE's careers inspiration website. You can access it through your eDofE account at www.eDofE.org. Just click on the LifeZone button and make sure you have allowed pop-ups in your browser.



You can share your DofE experiences on Twitter: twitter.com/DofE.

Remember: the DofE makes young people great people. Enjoy the journey and stay in touch!

A word from British Gas



The DofE's Headline Diamond Partner for Young People's Skills for Work

As you read this, you're probably just starting out on your Gold DofE journey. You have an incredible adventure ahead of you!

British Gas has supported the DofE for ten years. Every year, hundreds of our own young people start their Gold DofE with us, or they shine in interviews because they've already achieved their Award. That's because we know that doing your DofE means you develop the kind of characteristics and skills valued in the workplace.

These are the same skills that make businesses great. Great places to work, great for our customers, great for Britain.

The DofE will help you develop personally and professionally. Check out our careers advice on the DofE's LifeZone site.





Fuelling the DofE's Diamond Decade

In 2016 we celebrate our Diamond Anniversary – and 60 years of incredible young people **giving it their all** to achieve their Awards. We want many, many more talented young people to start their DofE and feel the benefit over the next decade.

Four British businesses have decided to **give it their all** and increase their support for the DofE. As a charity we need financial donations from individuals and businesses to be able to operate. It's our ambition to inspire, enable and empower two million young people through the DofE by 2020. With the help of these supporting companies, who believe in you and the DofE, many, many more young people can sign up and start their Bronze, Silver and Gold DofE.

British Gas is the DofE's Headline Diamond Partner for Young People's Skills for Work. Right now, hundreds of thousands of young people in the UK are not in work, education or training.

 David Marsh, Head of Academies, says, *"The Duke of Edinburgh's Award provides our apprentices with important life skills to make a positive impact within our business. These include communication, leadership and team working skills amongst many others."*

Paula Stannett, HR Director at **Heathrow**, explains why their business has become a Headline Diamond Partner, *"Success isn't only about getting a job. It's about becoming the 'you' you want to be. When you do your DofE you give back to others; you practise skills that are important to you; you test your own limits and stretch your horizons. You make Britain a better place to live. And for every passenger travelling through our airport, and everyone who lives in the UK, that really matters."*





And David Gwilliam, Chief Operating Officer of **Baker Tilly***, the UK provider of accounting and business services, our Headline Diamond Partner for Local Impact, says, *“The DofE provides young people with the skills that are held in high stead. We understand that young people with a DofE Award will have experiences and will have faced challenges that will set them up for life. We strongly believe the DofE will help give you the potential to become our business leaders of the future.”*

(*from 26 October 2015 Baker Tilly will rebrand to RSM, alongside all other firms in the RSM International network.)

Mel Ewell, CEO of the DofE’s Strategic Partner, **Amey** plc, says, *“We believe so wholeheartedly in the DofE that we guarantee to interview anyone with a Gold Award on their CV who meets 70% of the skills needed for the role.”*



Find out more at: www.DofEDiamond.org.uk

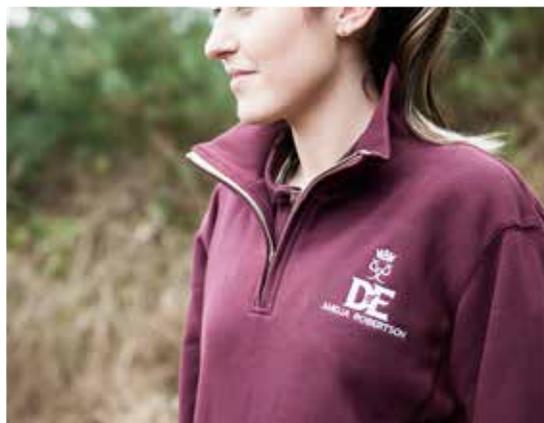


Official DofE clothing

We've a great range of DofE outdoor and casual clothes you can personalise with your name and team name.

Items include technical and outdoor kit and cotton casuals, from hoodies and quarter-zip tops to polo shirts and t-shirts.

We also have an exclusive range only available when you have achieved your Award.*



*conditions apply.

See the range at www.swiDofE.co.uk

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (the DofE) is a Registered Charity No: 1072490, in Scotland SC038254 and a Royal Charter Corporation No: RC000806. 02/07/2015 www.DofE.org

