

Structure of the Award: <https://www.dofe.org/doing-your-dofe/levels-timescales/>

- The Silver DofE Award has 4 sections, Volunteering, Physical, Skills and Expedition. You need to do at least 6 months Volunteering and a minimum of 6 months on either Physical or Skills and 3 months on the other. It's up to you which one you do for longer.
- The Expedition section involves planning and training for a 3 day, 2 night practice expedition and then again for a similar assessed qualifying expedition.
- If you start your Silver without doing Bronze first you'll have to do an extra 6 months volunteering or on the longer of the Physical or Skills sections you have chosen. Though you can change your mind later, you should decide which section you want to do for longer at the beginning. Knowing how long you're going to do it for will help you to choose your activity and set your goals for each section.
- It will take you at least 6 months for Silver if you've already achieved your Bronze, or 12 months if you've jumped straight into Silver.
- *If you come over from Bronze and haven't completed any activities yet then you must complete at least one activity section before you will be given your eDofE login credentials for the Silver Award. We will help you to achieve this but participants will have to adopt direct entrant timescales until they complete the Bronze Award. Once complete, the timescales will be reduced on your eDofE profile. If you continue with the same an activity from Bronze to Silver, the leaders must be able to see that you are seeking to increase the challenge/skill level otherwise it will not be approved.*

Activities consist of: <https://www.dofe.org/doing-your-dofe/activities-sections/>

- Physical:** Learning a new sport, e.g. rock climbing, dancing, squash, karate etc.
- Skill:** Learning a new skill. This can be anything from playing a musical instrument, to archery, to learning another language.
- Volunteering:** Doing something for the community, e.g. volunteering in a charity shop, working on a conservation project, helping the fire brigade, or working in an old people's home.
- Expedition:** Planning, preparing and undertaking an expedition which is self-sufficient in rural/wild country. This includes for Silver; three days of 7-8 hours walking at least 16-18 km/day in a self-sufficient group of four to seven participants. Training and assessment generally take place in such locations as the New Forest, South Downs, Exmoor and Dartmoor

This is a big commitment and although you have until age 25 to complete the Award, most participants complete their Silver Award by the end of Year 11 and the rest normally by the following January to ensure their Award is approved in time to attend the presentation ceremony.

Our focus is on preparation for the expedition. We will:

- Form the participants into teams
- Teach the following in practical sessions involving weekend walks of approximately 18km over 7 hours per day:
 - Detailed navigation over varied terrain, route planning and compass work
 - Camp-craft, including team cooking and equipment familiarisation
 - Countryside knowledge
- Arrange first aid training
- Encourage leadership & team working
- Prepare the groups for their practice and qualifying expedition

We will offer advice and must approve the choice of volunteering, activity or skill but it is up to the participant to organise and complete them. It really is their Award and they should feel proud of their achievements. Award completion is a boost for University application "Personal Statements" and it can make that crucial difference on any CV.

You can find out more information on the Duke of Edinburgh Award at <http://www.dofe.org>.

Costs

The Kings' DofE Award Group is run entirely by volunteers and does not receive any outside funding either from Kings' School or from Hampshire County Council (HCC). Therefore participants are expected to pay for the cost of their training as follows;

- **£29.00 Award Registration** - covers record book and entrance pack.
Cheque made payable to HCC.
- **£270.00 Training fees** - covers all training to ensure the participant is fully prepared for the Practice expedition on Exmoor, Qualifying expedition on Dartmoor and includes transport hire, fuel, assessment fees, Youth Hostel accommodation, Campsites (local, Exmoor & Dartmoor), less food.
Cheque made payable to Kings DofE Silver Group.

As with all courses, if participants drop out after enrolment, the funds will not be refunded.

If you have a problem with paying this, please contact me. (But apply soon to secure a place!)

Equipment

We have Tents, Trangias, Compasses, Maps and some Rucksacks. Participants are expected to provide; good walking boots, sleeping bag, waterproof jacket/trousers, head torch, gaiters. Most prefer to purchase their own rucksack which will give a proper fit and better enable them to complete the challenge.

Discounts: Once registered with DofE you will be sent a discount card which will get you 15% discount at most outdoor equipment shops including Cotswold Outdoors, Blacks, Millets, Go Outdoors Ultimate Outdoors and even Halfords are offering a discount. This is applicable to all family members.

Some items of kit like rucksacks are available to be borrowed just contact your leader for information.

If participants turn up with inappropriate equipment they will be sent home as we are responsible for their safety and wellbeing during training events. It would also be unacceptable to hinder the rest of their team.