

DoE Awards: Expedition Overview



Each award level has a common format:

- Pre – expedition training
- Training Expedition, to be held in an area similar to that of the Qualifying Expedition
- Assessed ('Qualifying') Expedition (Scouts provide the Assessors)
- Post expedition presentation/report

Expedition Overview - For all ventures, the environment should present an appropriate challenge based on the experience and ability of the participants. Expeditions may be undertaken by foot, bicycle, sailing boat, canoe, kayak, wheelchair or on horseback. At 1st Claygate our current planned expeditions are for walkers.

Level	Duration	Min hours Planned Activity per day in daylight	Type of Terrain
Bronze	2 days and 1 night	6 hours (of which at least 3 must be spent travelling)	Normal rural countryside which can be familiar
Silver	3 days and 2 nights	7 hours (of which at least 3.5 must be spent travelling)	Normal rural or open countryside which must be unfamiliar
Gold	4 days and 3 nights	8 hours (of which at least 4 must be spent travelling)	Wild Country

As an example, if a Silver expedition is on foot, an average Team might achieve a distance of between 48 – 59 km/ 30 – 37 miles. Planned activity includes a combination of journeying and exploring, but excludes overnight accommodation and catering.

All expeditions must have an aim as a focus for the team. There are 20 Conditions for each expedition to satisfy, please see the end of this document.

Pre-expedition Training

This will be carried out at Scouts on Tuesday's or at some weekends. The training delivered will be adapted for the Expedition level and location. This will comprise:

- Navigation, map-work and route choice and planning
- Equipment – choice and how to use it
- The Country Code and relevant points of the Highway Code
- First Aid
- Emergency procedures
- Camp-craft – tents and their management, choosing your pitch
- Cooking – safe use of a camp stove, choice of menu, hygiene
- Packing – what to take, what not to take, how to pack a rucksack

The DofE Training Expedition

The Training Expedition is designed to be as similar to the real thing as possible, but with some guidance and training along the way to ensure that participants are applying their training to the expedition. Participants aren't accompanied, but may be given more frequent checkpoints and helpful advice along the way. Each group needs a different level of supervision and guidance, and we will make judgements about this as well as identifying key areas requiring reinforcement or help along the way. This expedition should be in an area similar to that of the assessed expedition, in order to give a realistic view of the conditions which may be anticipated on the assessment.

The DofE Qualifying Expedition

This is the culmination of the previous training and preparation, and we will ensure that participants are prepared. The expedition must take place in the appropriate type of terrain – in general Bronze Expeditions will be in familiar territory, Silver in a different area so that it is unfamiliar to participants, and Gold must be held in specified upland wild areas ('Wild Country').

Scouts provide an Assessor in addition to the Supervisor. The Supervisor, generally the same instructor who will have taken the group through each stage so far, will oversee the logistics, give advice and liaise with the Explorers and parents; the Assessor just observes and assesses and will not be involved with the running of the expedition.

The Presentation

This may be in any format, and is generally delivered back at the Scout Centre once a trip is completed and the results from the stated aim of the expedition have been 'written up' by the participants as a group.

The 20 Conditions of a DofE Expedition

1. Your expedition must be by your own physical effort, without any motorised or outside assistance
2. Your expedition must be unaccompanied and self-sufficient.
3. Your expeditions must be supervised by an adult who is able to accept responsibility for the safety of you and your team.
4. Your expedition must have an aim.
5. You must be properly equipped for your expedition.
6. You must have completed the required training and practice expeditions.
7. You must undertake at least one practice expedition at each level of the programme. You should do this in the same mode of travel and in a similar environment to the qualifying expedition.
8. You and your team must plan and organise your expedition.
9. You must be assessed by an approved accredited Assessor to the DofE.
10. There must be between four and seven people in your team
11. You must be within the qualifying age of the DofE programme level.
12. All the people in your team must be at the same level of assessment.
13. Your team must not include anyone who has completed the same or higher level DofE expedition.
14. Your overnight accommodation should be camping.
15. Your expedition must be the minimum number of days required for your DofE level.
16. Your expedition should normally take place between the end of March and the end of October.
17. Your expedition should be in the recommended environment for your DofE level.
18. You must do the minimum hours of planned daily activity for your DofE level.
19. You should cook and eat a substantial meal each day.
20. You must create and deliver a presentation after your expedition to complete the section.

IF YOU FAIL ANY OF THE ABOVE CRITERIA YOU WILL NOT PASS THE EXPEDITION SECTION