

Guidance for Leading and participating in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award during the pandemic.

Welcome

If you're in doubt about any part of this guidance, please seek the advice of a professional.

Background

To help young people to complete their Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE), the Scouts and the DofE have provided flexibility to programmed rules, to help young people to achieve their awards during the pandemic. This guidance outlines permitted activity at each readiness level, incorporating flexible programme changes.

You can find out more by visiting:

- [The Scouts Programme flexibility pages](#)
- [The DofE with a difference pages](#)

Any DofE activities organised and delivered within the Scouts must be delivered following Scouts rules, this includes [the Scouts Framework – for face to face activities](#).

Things to consider

- The Scouts framework for face-to-face activities is connected to readiness levels provided by the **National Youth Agency**. Readiness levels detail what activity is safe and permissible.
- Residential activities that involve multiple households and international trips are only permitted at the **green** readiness level. This includes DofE expeditions and residential experiences.
- Sections planning to return to face-to-face Scouting must consider if they will be offering DofE activities within their programme as part of the restart process. This should include which activities will be run at which award level. Information should be included in the risk assessment and request to restart plans. This will be reviewed by the relevant Commissioner and Executive Committee who will need to give approval for the activities to start. Any Districts or Counties who run DofE away from the Unit setting will need to apply for approval to restart from their relevant Commissioner and Executive Committee.
- If you are planning for an expedition to take place before the end of the traditional expedition season on 31st October 2020 or you have plans for young people to take part in a residential experience, you must make this clear in your plans and risk assessments. This will only be possible if you are in a jurisdiction which is at Green readiness level.
- When participants are in the care of the Scouts, you can follow our guidance on [First Aid](#) here. When participants are under the care of an external organisation, including

when they are taking part in the volunteering, skill or physical section of the award, parents and carers must ensure that they are happy with the safety measures that are being put in place to safeguard their young person.

DofE 2020 Certificate of Achievement

The DofE will send a 2020 Certificate of Achievement to anyone who has completed the Volunteering, Skills and Physical sections of their programme.

At Bronze level, participants who have completed their Volunteering, Skills and Physical sections and as a result receive the 2020 DofE Certificate of Achievement can move on to the next award section, without completing the Expedition.

Expedition seasons

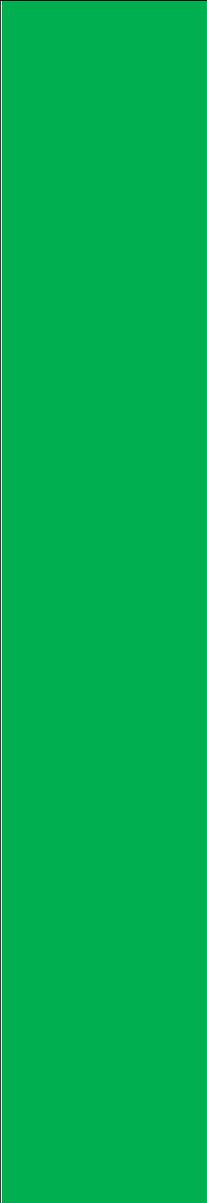
The 'expedition season' traditionally runs from March – End October. Age flexibilities allows for expeditions to be taken in March 2021 should participants miss the opportunity attend an expedition in 2020. Taking young people on expeditions outside of the traditional expedition season can bring additional risks and this should only be considered in exceptional circumstances, when Leaders and Commissioners have the confidence that young people have the training and capability to navigate harsher conditions. The safety of young people is of paramount importance.

Returning home during an expedition

The DofE have released [guidance](#) stating that young people can return home overnight during an expedition of any award level (Bronze, Silver and Gold). At present, we are considering what this means for the readiness levels and are awaiting further guidance from our governing body; the National Youth Agency. We will continue to review our guidance, and we will update this guidance if we think it is possible for safe expeditions to be run in other readiness levels. Until this point, expeditions or residential experiences can only take place at Green readiness levels. The safety of young people during this time is our first priority. You are welcome to [leave feedback](#) on the share your feedback link for this guidance.

National Youth Agency (NYA) Level	Permitted Activity	DofE Permitted Activity	Key Risks	Key Controls	Who is responsible for making sure this happens
Red	<p>No face-to-face Scouting activity allowed.</p> <p>Scouting can be virtual (online/video/phone).</p> <p>Scouting can take place at home/with family e.g. using The Great Indoors resources.</p>	<p>No face-to-face activity allowed. No overnight activity including expeditions and residential experiences allowed.</p> <p>Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections of the DofE programmes can be completed virtually. The DofE have released ideas on how you can do this remotely here.</p> <p>Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections can take place at home/with family. The DofE have allowed a temporary programme flexibility, to enable participants to volunteer at home helping younger siblings; and use this for their Volunteering Section. If this flexibility is practiced, participants should agree and document this with their DofE Leader.</p>	<p>All DofE activities conducted independently or virtually.</p>	<p>Ensure all parents aware of the changes in programme and guidance on staying safe online. (See the Staying Safe Online page on scouts.org.uk)</p>	<p>DofE Leaders / County DofE Adviser to ensure young people are supported with continuing their DofE through this time.</p> <p>DofE Leaders or Assessors should agree with participants that they can volunteer at home.</p>

<p>Amber</p>	<p>Scouting activities in outdoor spaces can resume in small groups, subject to following government guidance.</p> <p>No residential activities can take place.</p>	<p>No overnight activity including expeditions and residential experiences allowed.</p> <p>Volunteering, Physical and Skill sections can take place in outdoor spaces in small groups.</p>	<p>The risk of transmission of the coronavirus is much higher indoors than outdoors.</p>	<p>Government guidance followed, limitations on number of people in spaces and cleaning / hygiene systems.</p> <p>Follow guidance on Planning a safe and enjoyable programme.</p> <p>Check hygiene protocols are consistent, clear and understood (including signage).</p>	<p>Executive Committees and Commissioners</p>
<p>Yellow</p>	<p>Outdoor Scouting can be expanded and indoor Scouting in small groups can resume, subject to following government guidance.</p> <p>No residential activities can take place.</p>	<p>No overnight activity including expeditions and residential experiences allowed.</p> <p>Volunteering, Physical and Skill sections can take place in outdoor or indoor spaces in larger groups.</p>	<p>The risk of transmission of the coronavirus is much higher indoors than outdoors.</p>	<p>Government guidance followed, limitations on number of people in spaces and cleaning/ hygiene systems.</p> <p>Check hygiene protocols are consistent, clear and understood (including signage).</p>	<p>Executive Committees and Commissioners</p>
<p>Green</p>	<p>Following government guidance, all Scouting activities may resume.</p>	<p>All DofE sections, including expeditions and residential experiences are allowed within Government guidelines.</p>	<p>Be prepared that we could return to any of the earlier stages (in a local, regional or national capacity) at</p>	<p>Have contingency plans prepared.</p>	<p>Executive Committees and Commissioners</p>

	<p>Residential experiences and camps can take place.</p>	<p>The DofE have released some flexible guidance on expeditions*:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DofE expedition teams can attend back-to-back practice and qualifying expeditions. • Where it is not possible for Gold level expeditions to be run in wild country, expeditions can be run in non-wild country. For example, another area under different jurisdiction may reach 'Green' readiness level sooner than England. This means that residents of this area, could participate in an expedition within local countryside, despite not being wild country land. • As Gold expeditions do not need to take place in Wild Country, Silver and Bronze level expeditions may take place in the same area. 	<p>late notice, which could mean short notice cancellation of expeditions and residential.</p> <p>Consider that your expedition route may cross local or regional boundaries which may have different restrictions in place, like local lockdown areas. Ensure you have an alternative route.</p> <p>People may still be nervous about participation.</p>	<p>Ensure strong, visible hygiene practices are still in place.</p> <p>Clear communication to participants and parents about how activities will be run safely.</p>	

		<p>*Note: The DofE have released guidance stating that young people can return home overnight during an expedition of any award level (Bronze, Silver and Gold). At present, we are considering what this means for the readiness levels and are awaiting further guidance from our governing body; the National Youth Agency.</p> <p>We will continue to review our guidance, and we will update this guidance if we think it is possible for safe expeditions to be run in other readiness levels. Until this point, expeditions or residential experiences can only take place at Green readiness levels. The safety of young people during this time is our first priority. You are welcome to leave feedback on the share your feedback link for this guidance.</p>			
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Checklist

Include a detailed plan on how you will run the DofE programme in your return to Scouting plan and risk assessment.	
Explicitly state that you would like to run an expedition or residential experience, with detail on how you will ensure a safe overnight experience.	
Receive approval from the appropriate Commissioner and Executive Committee to run any part of the DofE programme, including residential experiences and expeditions.	
If necessary, agree in writing with parents or family members that they can be an Assessor for the Volunteering, Skill or Physical section of the DofE Award.	