



Gold Award



2026 Welcome Pack



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WELCOME LETTER

Dear Participant,

Congratulations on reaching the Gold Award! We are thrilled to welcome you to this final phase of your DofE journey.

The Gold Award represents the most significant and rewarding challenge you've encountered with DofE to date. It is a testament to your commitment and perseverance - qualities that will serve you well not only on this journey but throughout your life.

Throughout your award, you will refine the skills acquired during your Bronze and Silver Awards in navigation and camp setup, all while being guided by our knowledgeable instructors. Embrace the challenges that lie ahead; they will test your limits and teach you how to overcome obstacles, helping you emerge stronger.

Keep in mind that the Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a personal challenge. You'll set your own goals and work towards them, forming lasting friendships along the way. Remember, each step you take is an opportunity to grow and develop, which will empower you in all your future endeavours.

Best wishes for your Gold Award journey,

The C I Adventures Team





NEXT STEPS

CHOOSING YOUR SECTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Time to start thinking about choosing section activities! The **volunteering** section must be done for **12 months, 1 hour per week** (can be condensed to 2 hours every two weeks). The **physical** and **skills** sections will need to be done for **6 months, 1 hour a week**. Choose one of these sections to do for **12 months** instead of **6 months**.

1

Your chosen activity will need approving by your DofE leader, this will be done through eDofE (details below). When you attend your first eDofE session you should come with an idea of the activities you want to do for each of the sections and also have an idea who will be your assessor for each section.

Your chosen assessor should be someone over 18 years old who has some knowledge of your chosen activity and they cannot be related to you.

Need some inspiration? Please click [here](#) for activity ideas.

REGISTER FOR EDOFE

eDofE is the online portal where you will record any evidence and progress for each section of your award and keep in touch with your DofE leaders.

2

Now that you have been enrolled, your DofE leader will create your eDofE account.

You will receive your login details during your first eDofE session and our instructors will help you sign into your account for the first time. This is when you will sign the Code of Behaviour.

As mentioned above the first eDofE session will be more productive if you arrive with ideas for activities and the names of the people you would like to be your assessors.



THE EXPEDITION SECTION

As part of the training for your expedition you will be sent some e-learning along with a Knowledge Check that you will be required to complete before the practice expedition.

3 This is to refresh the skills you've already learnt during the Bronze and Silver Awards so you can get the most out of your time face-to-face with our instructors.

As a Gold participant you will be much more involved with the expedition planning than you have been previously. This offers you a certain amount of freedom and opportunity. Our standard Gold expedition takes place in the Lake District, the exact area and route will be up to you.

If you and your team would like to do your expedition in a different area (or even a different country!) then please get in touch and we can discuss this further. Please be advised that the prices listed are for the standard expedition to the Lake District, choosing a different expedition area may result in a higher price depending on the additional logistical costs. For example an expedition to Scotland would incur more costs than one to Wales.

At C I Adventures we're committed to delivering expeditions that participants are genuinely excited about. We'll do everything we can to make your dream expedition a reality while sticking to your budget.



PERSONAL KIT FOR YOUR EXPEDITION

Personal kit (walking boots, waterproof clothing, rucksack, sleeping bag and roll mat) can be hired from C I Adventures for a small fee. Kit hire prices can be found in the FAQs.

However if you would like to purchase the necessary equipment instead, we recommend this is done with plenty of time to wear in/get familiar with the kit before the expedition.

Personal Kit List:

- Walking Boots - Something waterproof and sturdy with good ankle support
- Waterproof Jacket AND Trousers - Waterproof/windproof with a hood
- Expedition Rucksack - Chest and waist straps, at least 60Ltr
- Day Rucksack/Backpack - Must be comfy and fit extra layers plus your lunch
- Sleeping Bag - 3/4 season (The evenings will still be cold in April!). Must be compact
- Sleep Mat

There are a lot of options for buying kit to suit every budget.

Sports Direct, Mountain Warehouse & Decathlon have some good budget options.

Cotswold, Millets, Go Outdoors & Blacks all offer a discount to DofE participants with a discount card.

Click [Here](#) for a useful article on looking after your kit

THE RESIDENTIAL SECTION

Now that you've reached the Gold award there is a new section to be completed, the Residential section! For most participants this section becomes one of the highlights throughout their whole DofE journey.

For details of the Residential section, please [click here](#).

We will discuss the Residential section in more detail during the first eDofE session. It is worth having a look at the opportunity finder to get an idea of what's currently available ([Click Here](#)).



IMPORTANT DATES

Main Events	
Details	Dates
<u>eDofE After School Session</u> <u>(Compulsory - Setting Up eDofE Login)</u> School - 3:15pm-5:30pm	Thursday 26th March 2026
<u>Training Weekend</u> <u>GOLD DIRECT ONLY</u>	See next page.
<u>Practice Expedition</u> Yorkshire Dales - exact drop off point to be confirmed.	Saturday 11th April 2026 to Monday 13th April 2026
<u>eDofE After School Session</u> <u>(Compulsory - Route Planning for</u> <u>Assessed Exp.)</u> School - 3:15pm-5pm	Thursday 30th April 2026
<u>Assessed Expedition</u> (Location to be decided during route planning session)	Sunday 24th May 2026 to Wednesday 27th May 2026
<u>eDofE</u> <u>(Compulsory - Presentation)</u> School - 3:15pm-5pm	Thursday 11th June 2026

**FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED
CLOSER TO THE ABOVE DATES**

IMPORTANT DATES (cont)

Additional Important Dates

We will be hosting an eDofE drop-in session for all groups on the following date:

Thursday 9th July 2026

This will be held at school from 3:15pm-4:30pm. This will be a great opportunity to ask our DofE staff questions and get your sections logged.

For participants taking Gold Direct, you will be required to attend a **compulsory training weekend** at our indoor centre. This will be with one of the Bronze groups.

These will taken place on the following dates:

- Saturday 7th March & Sunday 8th March 2026
- Saturday 14th March & Sunday 15th March 2026
- Saturday 28th March & Sunday 29th March 2026
- Saturday 25th April & Sunday 26th April 2026

If you are on the Gold Direct Programme, please ensure you are free for one of these weekends.

e-learning to be completed before the first eDofE session will be available on the 3rd of February to all participants

**FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO
THOSE ENROLLED ON THE GOLD DIRECT AWARD**

PAYMENTS

The Gold Award costs **£457 (or £557 for Direct)**.

This amount is broken up into **3 payments** (4 for Direct) that are to be made by ParentPay.

Payment	Amount	Due Date
Payment 1 (Non-refundable Deposit)	£100	Tuesday 20th January 2026
Payment 2	£177	Friday 27th February 2026
Payment 3	£180	Friday 27th March 2026
Payment 4 (DIRECT ONLY)	£100	Thursday 30th April 2026

NOTES:

The first payment is a non-refundable deposit as this includes a mandatory registration fee which goes directly to the DofE charity.

These payments are not inclusive of equipment hire (see FAQs).

Please be advised ParentPay will be ready to take your initial payment 2 working days after you receive your confirmation email.

If you are experiencing any issues with ParentPay, you will need to contact the school as C I Adventures does not handle ParentPay payments.

CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

During the course of my DofE award I agree to:

1. Take ownership of my own award
2. Represent myself, my school, C I Adventures and the Duke of Edinburgh organisation to the highest standard
3. Uphold the core values of the DofE award
4. Challenge myself to embrace new experiences and opportunities
5. Be respectful towards all instructors and be ready to learn
6. Always follow the C I Adventures phone policy

On expedition I agree to:

1. Follow the Countryside Code
2. Be mindful of other people especially in public spaces
3. Act safely and responsibly at all times
4. Follow C I Adventures Campsite Etiquette Guide ([Available Here](#)).

Please be advised the following behaviour will not be tolerated and will result in an immediate call home to be picked up:

1. Drug use or possession
2. Smoking or vaping
3. Any violence or bullying
4. Alcohol possession or consumption
5. Entering ANY tent you have not been assigned to (After 'settle in' has been declared by your Supervisor)
6. Failure to report anyone who is missing from your tent who should be there or failing to report anyone who is in your tent who should not be there

Please read through the above carefully. You will be required to sign a copy of this during your first eDofE session.

PHONE POLICY

During the training:

- Phones are to remain packed away in rucksacks unless authorised by your instructor.
- Please ask permission if you would like to use your phone, for example checking messages from parents or taking a photo.

During the expedition:

Your assessor will require two phone numbers from your team to help relocate you should your team get lost/for use in an emergency. Your assessor may also ask you to share your location through Google Maps, this will be discussed and demonstrated during your expedition brief on the 1st morning of your Expedition.

If no team members wish to share their mobile number a basic phone will be provided to communicate with the assessor in case of an emergency.

With the exception of the above, phones should remain in rucksacks on airplane mode unless:

- It is being used to take a photograph.
- It is being used as part of your team project (with prior approval).
- It is an emergency situation.

At all times (Including camp):

- Social media is prohibited.
- Please ask permission before taking photos of anyone, including teammates.
- Playing music is not permitted.

Failure to follow this phone policy will result in a warning in the first instance, phone confiscation in the second instance (returned at the end of the day) and confiscation for the rest of the expedition, plus a call home in the third instance.

PRACTICE EXPEDITION

When?

Saturday 11th April
2026 to
Monday 13th April
2026

Where?

It will take place in the
Yorkshire Dales.

The exact meeting
point will be
determined at a date
closer to the
expedition.

What will I need to bring?

Personal Kit: Walking boots, rucksack
(day & expedition), water proofs,
suitable clothing, first aid kit (At least
one between your group).

Food: Lunch for 3 days, evening meal
for 2 nights, breakfast for 2 mornings
and snacks.

Other: Gas for your teams stoves,
campsite fees (exact cost will be
sent through before the weekend).

We will provide maps, tents, Trangia
stoves, compasses and an emergency
contact card

Itinerary

Day One

Meet at campsite, set up
camp, each team will go on
a day walk with an
instructor to refresh their
navigational skills.

Day Two

Teams will walk to the
second campsite under
remote supervision. If more
navigational instruction is
required an instructor will
walk with you in the
morning.

Day Three

Teams will walk from the
second campsite to the
pick up point under remote
supervision.

You can find a full comprehensive kit list on the DofE Website

FAQs

Can my Auntie/Uncle/Grandma/Dad be the section assessor for my volunteering/physical/skills section?	<p>No, your section assessor cannot be related to you. Your section supervisor must be over 18 and should be knowledgeable on your chosen activity. If you have chosen a fairly independent activity then trusted family friends and neighbours can be a fantastic option for assessors. For example if you chose gardening for your skills section then your next door neighbour could be your assessor. For more information about section assessors and how they can submit their reports please click Here.</p>
Can I volunteer for a business?	<p>Generally speaking, no you cannot volunteer for a business although there are some exceptions. For example you cannot volunteer to do unpaid labour for a nursing home eg cleaning, cooking meals etc however you could volunteer to read to residents. If you're not sure if what you have in mind qualifies for the volunteering section it's best to check with us first. Please also note you cannot volunteer to help your parents clean up at home!</p>
When will I get my DofE card?	<p>You will be able to apply for your DofE card when you're set up on eDofE. We will show you how to do this during your first eDofE session.</p>

FAQs (cont)

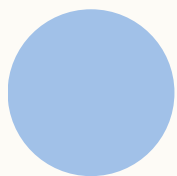
What is the Countryside Code?	The Countryside Code is a set of guidelines on how to enjoy the outdoors while respecting and protecting our natural spaces. The full Countryside Code can be found Here .
What will I be doing during the eDofE route planning session?	Now you have started working towards your Gold award you are required to be more involved with the planning stage of the expedition. During the route planning session you will plan your own route with your team, our instructors will be there to show you how to do this and offer guidance. We will discuss this more during your initial eDofE session.
What about the Assessed Expedition?	Details regarding the Assessed Expedition will follow at a later date.
I have a question that's not listed, what is the best way to get a prompt answer?	We are a busy centre and are often out leading sessions so the best way to get in touch is via email: dofe@ciadventures.com

FAQs (cont)

How do I hire personal kit from C I Adventures and what is the price?	
You can hire personal kit from us by filling in our <u>dedicated kit hire form</u>. Kit must be hired no later than 1 week before it's required. The prices per day of hire are listed below.	
<u>Item</u>	<u>Price Per Day</u>
Walking Boots	£3.00
Waterproof Trousers	£2.00
Waterproof Jacket	£2.00
Hat & Gloves	£2.00
Sleeping Mat	£2.00
Sleeping Bag	£5.00
Expedition/Day Rucksack	£2.00



Available for
Training
Weekends and
Expeditions



Available for
Practice and
Assessed
Expedition Only