THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

*This one is for your parent/carer!*

# Parents/carers: How to help your child get the most from their DofE experience

**For any young person their DofE is one of the most enjoyable and valuable activities they can do. A DofE Award is highly valued and recognised by colleges, universities and employers.**

## What can I do to help?

Just as you support and guide your child in other areas of their life, they'll appreciate the same for their DofE. This could include encouraging them to keep their *e*DofE pages up-to-date, giving them lifts to activities and providing financial support for kit and equipment. DofE programmes can be challenging so you can really help to keep them motivated.

A DofE guiding principle is that young people take responsibility for choosing their own programme, but here are some ways you can support them on their journey:

1: **It's personal...** Help ensure that the activity choices they find are exciting, but realistic for your budget, transport and local facilities.

2: **Get the evidence...** Remind them to keep gathering their evidence, e.g. photographs/certificates, and uploading it to *e*DofE.

3: **Help find an Assessor...** Every young person needs to find an Assessor to sign off each DofE section. The Assessor can be anyone who knows about or organises the activity. It might be the gym or sports instructor, art teacher, club or volunteering event organiser and so on. It **cannot** be a family member.

4: **Prove it...** As their programme comes to an end you can remind them to make sure their Assessors write their reports so that they can complete the section.

5: **Use it...** Ensure they include their DofE involvement and achievements in their CV or personal statement.

For more information on their DofE programme visit: **www.DofE.org/parents**.

Sign up to our parents' newsletter at: **www.tinyurl.com/DofEparentnews** and you will receive useful emails with advice and support for you and your child throughout their DofE programme.

# Looking for advice, competitions and great offers?

## Sign up below and win £1,500 for your child's school/ DofE centre and £250 of expedition kit for your child.

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

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

You will be entered into a termly prize draw to win £1,500 of outdoor kit for your child's school or DofE centre and a further £250 of kit for your child, 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.*

# Essential Expedition section support

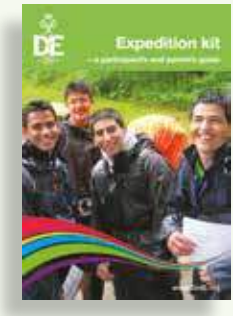
Here are three ways we help you and your child get started...

## 15% off expedition kit

Every parent/carer receives a **DofE Reward Card** in their child's *Welcome Pack* when they start their DofE. This card gives you **15%** off all full price items at Cotswold Outdoor all year round both in store and online.

**You can also use your card for everyone in your family.** Use the AF code on the back of the card when buying online or bring the card into a store.

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 an expedition. It is full of money saving ideas, expert hints and tips for making 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.

Your child should use it when getting kit together and when packing their rucksack before their expedition.

View it online or download it at:
**www.DofEShopping.org/kitadvice**.

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

You look for every opportunity to help your children. You are alive to the world's challenges and the many obstacles to success that they will navigate.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award has been a catalyst for young people to **give it their all** since 1956, inspiring and enabling each young person to embark on a journey pushing personal boundaries and gaining meaningful and future-shaping experiences.

But sadly many of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable young people in the UK don't yet have the opportunity to take part in the life-changing experience that the DofE provides.

Our small charity (which sits behind the scenes of your own child's school or youth group) simply doesn't have the resources to reach all the young people whose lives we know would be transformed by taking part; but, with your support we could help another young person eager to change their life for the better if given the chance.

**A gift of just £15 could help a vulnerable young person turn their life around through The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.**

Please visit **www.DofE.org/donate** today. **A gift of £15 from you really could help change a life.**

# Thank you!

**Please visit www.DofE.org/donate**

# Get involved – support the DofE

**Volunteering to help your local DofE group will make a big difference.**

You can be involved in a way that suits your skills, knowledge and availability, with many flexible opportunities to choose from.

Talk to your local DofE Leader or contact a DofE group in your area to find out more: **www.DofE.org/takepart**.

## Be an Assessor

You could be an Assessor and support young people doing their DofE who want to use a specialist skill or interest that you might have 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. You'll be very popular – especially if you can drive a minibus!

You need to complete some training to assess the Expedition section, but it is enormously rewarding to see the positive impact a DofE expedition has on a group of young people.

Find out more at **www.DofE.org/go/eaas**.

*"Volunteers also benefit from many of the same things that the young people do, such as new friendships with other volunteers and the opportunity to try new things. While it takes commitment, the rewards far outweigh that commitment and I would encourage others to get involved in volunteering with the DofE."*

**Trudy Jupp** became involved with, and then took over the running of, the South Somerset open DofE centre and has given a phenomenal 28 years of voluntary service since completing her own Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.

# 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...

Go Ape! Tree Top Adventure · hp · yha be inspired · halfords · Ordnance Survey

Cotswold Outdoor · Young Driver · SuperBreak · covered learnerdriver · EXPLORE! The Adventure Travel Experts

Kingswood · SYHA Hostelling Scotland · YD Only Young Drivers · Vango · MAPYX LIMITED Tracking Solutions

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

# A DofE Award will give your child the skills for life and work

You and your child might already be thinking about jobs, what a 'career' looks like, and earning money. We want you to know one thing; major employers value and are committed to employing young people who've done their DofE.

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

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

Your child can check them out on the LifeZone, the DofE's careers inspiration website. They can access it through their *e*DofE account at **www.eDofE.org**. They just need to click on the LifeZone button and make sure they have allowed pop-ups in their browser.

You can both 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, your child is probably just starting out on their DofE journey. They will have an incredible adventure ahead of them!

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 your child develop personally and professionally. Check out our careers advice on the DofE's LifeZone site.

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# 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 is our ambition to inspire, enable and empower your child and two million other young people through their DofE programmes by 2020. With the help of these supporting companies who believe in your child 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.

British Gas

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."*

Heathrow

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 cotton casual clothes you can personalise for your child.**

**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 your child achieves their 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**