

## What is the Duke of Edinburgh Award?



The Award is a challenging programme of activities which will help you to learn new skills, help others and experience adventure and it will give you a great sense of achievement. What's more, many organisations such as employers and universities take a good view of the Award and what it says about the person who has achieved it.

### Who is it for?

The Award is open to anyone between the age of 14 - 25 years. Special qualifications are not needed, just a willingness to have a go.

### What does it involve?

There are three levels - Bronze, Silver and Gold - and for each, you complete activities in four sections, Service, Skills, Physical Recreation and Expeditions. At the Gold level you also take part in a Residential Project.



It's up to you what you do. In each Section there is a wide range of options you can choose from or you can find other similar activities which interest you. This could be something entirely new or you could continue with an activity you already enjoy. The good news is it's not an exam and you can't fail. The Award is about having a go. It's not a competition - you just need a bit of enterprise and perseverance.

## The benefits

The Award is widely recognised by employers and people involved in education. Amongst the personal benefits are developing or discovering a sense of achievement; gaining new skills and interests; self-confidence and self-reliance; leadership skills and abilities; exciting opportunities; friendship; experience of teamwork, problem-solving and decision-making; increased motivation; enhanced self-esteem; development of communication skills; a network of local, national and international connections but most of all enjoyment.

It takes at least six months for a direct entrant to achieve a Bronze Award; 12 months for Silver and 18 months for Gold. Participants can work on various Sections of their Award at the same time.

## Orienteering



Orienteering can qualify for any participant as both the Skills and Physical Recreation elements. Assisting with events and / or designing permanent courses could possibly qualify for Sports Officiating, Sports Leadership or Public Service and mastering the I.T. intricacies of the E-punching and results system could also earn credit.

Potential participants will be being given Orienteering as an option for selection as part of their programme but existing younger orienteers can gain credit from their

development within the sport to give them a head start for the rest of the programme.

This will involve us agreeing realistic targets and then monitoring performance on an individual by individual basis. Effectively once you have signed up we can agree targets for your achievements under the existing badge scheme and / or you can get involved in other aspects of the sport and event management.

## Contacts:

Initial interest or general enquiries should first be addresses to the club - email the webmaster at [web@leioc.co.uk](mailto:web@leioc.co.uk) or contact Roy Denney on 0116 233 8604 or any other member of the committee.

More detailed information about the operation of the scheme and ongoing contact once you get involved should be through County Hall, Glenfield, Leics. LE3 8RF. Sue Bishop is the Award Administrator and is on 0116 265 6344. She is there every day for queries or messages.

Anita Mothersole, Acting County Co-ordinator, Youth & Community Education Service, is in overall control of the scheme for Leicestershire & Rutland and is on Tel: 0116 265 6674



They can receive emails at the moment at County Hall - [sjbishop@leics.gov.uk](mailto:sjbishop@leics.gov.uk)

Introductions can be made to other operating authorities for members living outside those counties.

More information about the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is available on their web site (see link) or from the Award Group for our region which is c/o Chilwell Comprehensive School, Queens Road West, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 5AL  
Tel: 0115 922 8002, Fax: 0115 922 8302, e-mail [eastmid@theaward.org](mailto:eastmid@theaward.org)

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