



HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL



Summer edition

Newsletter

July 2010

023 8068 4935 (Abby)
023 8068 4934 (Carrie)
023 8068 4938 (Gill)

To enable us to deal with calls more effectively, please note that the number for all admin enquiries including registrations and progress on Award authorisations, is 023 8068 4935.

Recruitment News!

It is with great excitement that we can now confirm the following additions to the Hampshire DofE Team.

Rob Nash is taking on the role of Project Manager for the Award Project, Youth Offending Team based in Cosham and has agreed a 5th July start date.

Teresa Monks has been successfully appointed as the Field Officer for Winchester and Eastleigh. Start date is expected to be around 1st August.

We are all looking forward to working together in the coming months.

Outstanding Gold Achievement for Andover ODC

Two young men from Andover recently went to St. James' Palace to receive their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award certificates at a ceremony attended by H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh. This was a very proud and exciting day for them and their guests, but their achievement in gaining such a prestigious award was all the more commendable as both have a learning disability.

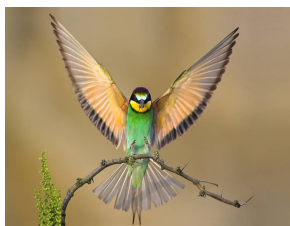
This was the culmination of 7 years of hard work as they worked their way through the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. They have undertaken a wide range of activities including cookery, first aid, healthy living, personal safety, swimming and badminton, voluntary work at a Mencap café and with a local conservation group, expeditions in the New Forest, the Isle of Wight and the Peak District, and a residential week at an outdoor activities centre on Exmoor.

They gained their awards as members of the Andover DofE Centre, a special needs group supported by the Test Valley Youth Team and run by a part-time youth worker and a team of dedicated volunteers. The group has been operating since 2000 and during that time participants with a variety of special needs, particularly severe and moderate learning difficulties, autism and cerebral palsy, have gained a total of 22 Bronze, 12 Silver and 6 Gold DofE Awards. There are currently 18 enthusiastic young people attending the centre and DofE participants from other groups often come to the centre for expeditions, especially at Silver and Gold levels.



eDofE Info Request!

Please ensure all your participants complete their ethnicity information on eDofE when they log in for the first time. Doing this enables us to ensure our stats are correct and could also increase our funding opportunities.



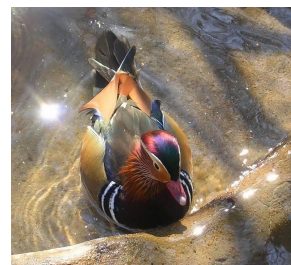
Peak Assessor Network

Request from Regional Office:

In future can all requests for Network Assessors in the White Peak area be submitted on a **GREEN** form (rather than red - which has traditionally been used as this area is outside the Wild Country/National Park area). Many thanks

Appledurcombe Campsite IofW

Unfortunately after many years, the Appledurcombe campsite on the Isle of Wight will no longer be accepting Duke of Edinburgh Groups - this is with immediate effect.



County Duke of Edinburgh's Award Office, The Rookwood Centre,
Penshurst Way, Boyatt Wood, Eastleigh, SO50 4RJ

Tel: (023) 8068 4935

Fax: (023) 8061 8395

e-mail: dofe@hants.gov.uk

Expedition approval and timing - open and winter seasons

The general rule is that overnight camping is only possible from April until October, or rather the start and ending of British Summer Time/Daylight Saving Time. Outside of this period, groups may have to spend very long periods of dark in their tents at a time of year when temperatures are likely to be low and weather conditions poor or possibly wintry. This is a specialist activity requiring experience and specialist equipment.

Important notes

No exceptions to this rule will be considered for assessed expeditions. These are to occur in the open season April-October.

Some flexibility is possible for practice expeditions and training **in non-wintery conditions**, for example:

- training days or part-days that are clearly within daylight hours and finish two hours before dusk. The latter part of such days must be accompanied (if not all day)
- overnight training camps, where the camp is on a site with a building or other suitable internal space to use in the evening and in the event of poor weather or an emergency
- practice expeditions are possible in the last weekend/week **of March** where the campsite has a similar building which the group can use as required and in an emergency. However, this requires high quality equipment, including sleeping bags and thermarests. Open campsites and wild camping are not possible. **Note:** Evidence of recent training must be in place for March practice expeditions.

All these require weather conditions to be normal/good, i.e. not wintry (considered to be any of: cold temperatures, frost, ice, snow, high winds/wind chill or similar variations).

Should conditions change, groups have to accept that they would need to postpone, cancel or abandon their venture.

In the end, the quality of the experience for the young people should outweigh any other logistical considerations.

Steve Poynton

County Inspector : Outdoor Education

Some HCC DofE Facts!

- HCC DofE has seen an increase of 48% of enrolments at Bronze level.
- Overall last year Awards Gained, rose from 27% to 32%.
- 79% of young people participating in the DofE believed that DofE helped develop their independence.
- HCC in 3rd in the SE Region for enrolments.
- HCC is 4th in SE Region for awards gained.
- 664 Adult volunteers were involved in some form of DofE training last year.

DofE Leader's Meeting update

A big thank you to those who attended the DofE Leader's meeting in Basingstoke on the 21st June, it was a good turn out and useful for many to put faces to names.

The evening was a great success and a great opportunity to meet and network with other Co-ordinator's from across the County, sharing good practice and updating on recent changes.

We aim to run two of these meetings per year, the next one will be 6th December 2010.

DofE Shop

The DofE shop is now online! Be sure to visit our great, simple to use online shop to get hold of merchandise, gifts and resources to help you in your DofE work.

Simply create an account so you can access the main lines. If you are a DofE Leader you should use your #DofE login details, giving you full access to restricted items.

The shop offers merchandise promoting the DofE, DofE programmes resources, materials for those running the DofE, gifts and clothing.

All DofE materials are available from ASL, Unit 18/19 Stewartfield Industrial Estate, off Newhaven Road, Edinburgh, EH6 5RQ. Tel: 0131 553 5280, Fax: 0131 553 5776, E-mail: asl@DofE.org www.DofEshop.org

The new DofE Programmes Pack is now available!

The Programmes Pack is a bright, visual resource in a smart clip-top plastic box containing a set of invaluable resources to help you promote activities to DofE participants, and to encourage them to broaden their horizons by discovering new activities.

Available to purchase for £20 by Leaders and Co-ordinators now from our online shop at www.DofEshop.org



Expedition Assessment Fees

We are pleased to announce that you are now able to pay for Assessment Fees via ASL.

Please remember that this is only necessary if you are using one of our Network Assessors. If you are using an Operating Authority or AAP Assessor, the existing arrangements you have in place remain.

We hope that this will make the arranging and re-imburement of our Network Assessors an easier process for yourselves, your Leaders and our Assessors and thank you for your patience whilst the necessary system changes were put into place at ASL.

If you have any queries or problems using the system, please let us know and we will endeavour to assist.

T: 01753 727450

F: 01753 810666

E: stephanie.kennedy@DofE.org

Ditcham's Water Adventure

Ditcham Park School have joined forces with Itchen South Scouting to offer an opportunity of taking part in a Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award Canoe Expedition to six Silver DofE participants. The participants are to use the scout group's open 2-person canoes to transport the full kit that they need to camp out for 3 nights and paddle for 3 days on the expedition.

Steve Moore, Level 3 Canoe Coach with Itchen South Scouting, has been running weekly training sessions for the participants at Eastleigh lakes to teach basic paddle skills as well as what to do in the event of a capsized, and how to rescue anyone in the water. The participants have just returned from a practice expedition on the River Wye, where they spent three days paddling from Hoarwithy, via Ross-on-Wye and Symonds Yat to finish at Brockweir (near Tintern Abbey).



The team are now planning for their final assessed expedition to take place in August.

Anne Harris
Ditcham Park School DofE Co-ordinator

The RSPCA Young Photographer Awards

A great opportunity not to be missed for all those budding new Photographers!

The RSPCA Young Photographer Awards (YPA) is the only national animal photography competition for under-19s that is FREE and easy to enter.

With four categories to choose from there really is something for everyone and no excuse not to enter:

- Under 12 years
- 12-18 years
- Pet Personalities
- The Portfolio Prize

There are some fantastic prizes to be won including a weekend photography break with top wildlife photographer Danny Green and an exclusive behind-the-scenes photo-shoot at an RSPCA centre. Plus an invite to an awards ceremony at the Tower of London in December with TV presenter Matt Baker hosting the event.

You can enter online in just a few minutes at: www.rspca.org.uk/ypa or you can download a postal entry form and send us your prints. The closing date for online entries is Monday 6th September 2010.

The competition's aim is to encourage young people's interest in animals and to appreciate the wonder of nature.



Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF) and Youth Capital Fund (YCF) Grants

These grants form part of the wider policy agenda detailed in "Youth Matters" They are intended to give young people, aged between 13 and 19 years, more choice and the opportunity to take greater control over what is available in their area.

The funds are to be distributed at young people's discretion on projects raised by young people to improve things to do and places to go in their area.

YOF funds are intended to involve young people, especially hard to reach young people, in identifying positive activities and things to do; and to support their role as decision makers, grant givers and project leaders.

YCF funds are intended to provide the capital element of projects young people say they want. For example youth shelters, mobile youth units, skate parks, park improvements and for ICT equipment.

Who can apply?

Groups of young people from Hampshire who are aged between 13 and 19 and up to the age 25 if they have additional needs can apply for grants. Projects that involve or benefit groups of vulnerable young people will be given additional weighting in the decision making processes.

How to apply

The first point of contact is your local District Youth Team Manager. Please contact the DofE Office to find out who your local District Team Manager is. They will explain how to apply for a grant, how grants are approved and they will also offer advice, support and encouragement to groups of young people.

The group of young people involved will be expected to offer a brief initial application explaining who they are, what they would like and how it would benefit them and their community.

The group will be linked to an organisation, if it is not already associated with one, who will be expected to support the group develop and deliver their idea, hold funds on behalf of the group if a grant is awarded and help the young people prepare and submit data, reports and case studies.

The young people, supported by the organisation, will then be required to complete a detailed application form. Applications are then considered by a scrutiny panel of young people who decide how funds are allocated.

Groups receiving funds are expected to complete data returns, reports on the project and case studies in relation to their project. This is explained in detail when a grant is offered.

When to apply

Process

All applications are taken to the Young People's Panel (YPP). There is a YPP for each of the 11 districts across Hampshire. This excludes Southampton and Portsmouth city councils who have their own funds.

Projects under £5,000

Once a project has been approved by the Young People Scrutiny Panel applications are forwarded to the Hampshire County Council Commissioning Co-ordination Unit, who ensure the applications have all the required information. It is then passed to the Payments Team in the County Treasurer's Department. Payments can take between 4 and 5 weeks.

Projects over £5,000

Once a project has been approved by the Young People Scrutiny Panel, applications are forwarded to the Hampshire County Council Commissioning Co-ordination Unit. All applications for £5,000 and over are then presented in a report to the Hampshire County Council Executive Member. Once approved the application goes to the Payments Team in the County Treasurer's Department. Payments can take between 4 and 5 weeks.

Contacts

Paul Davies - Youth Capital Fund - 01962 846548, or Jess Holloway - Youth Opportunity Fund - 01962 845387

For a YOF Application Form and Guidance Notes please contact Carrie Shearing, Duke of Edinburgh's Award Office on 023 8068 4934 or carrie.shearing@hants.gov.uk