

# DofE - Getting Started



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## Who can do the Duke of Edinburgh's Award?

The DofE is open to all young people between the ages of 14 and 25. Each level of the DofE has a minimum age requirement. Provision for the DofE is made through the Explorer Scout and Scout Network sections.

## Who is able to help and advise me?

County D of E Adviser (England)

District D of E Adviser (England)

Country Office (Wales/Scotland/Northern Ireland)

## Where can I get resources?

[www.dofe.org](http://www.dofe.org)

[www.scouts.org.uk/dofe](http://www.scouts.org.uk/dofe)

Further support and Resources are available from the Programme and Development Department at Gilwell Park - who can be contacted through the above contact details.

- 1 Decide which levels are appropriate for your young people- Bronze, Silver or Gold (this will depend on the age of the young people and the amount of time they can commit etc).
- 2 Contact your District / County DofE Adviser (if in England) or your Country Office (if in Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland) to register.
- 3 Help the young people decide what they are going to do for each section of their programme.
- 4 Start helping the young people to go through the Award, making sure they keep a record of what they are doing; and that they don't forget to get people to write statements to support their efforts.

5 Once they have finished their programme, send the DofE welcome packs to your District / County D of E Adviser. The Chief Scout's Platinum, Diamond and Queen's Scout Awards are assessed by arrangement with the District Explorer Scout Commissioner / County Scout Network Commissioner, just ask the young person to complete the Queen's Scout Award Completion form (found at [www.scouts.org.uk/qsa](http://www.scouts.org.uk/qsa)) and send it to The Scout Association.

It is recommended that you attend an Introduction to DofE training course when you first start. This course will teach you about the basics of how the scheme works, and give you hints and tips as to how to help young people through the DofE. Courses are run regionally, and you can get dates of courses in your local area from [www.scouts.org.uk/dofe](http://www.scouts.org.uk/dofe). You get a copy of the DofE handbook for Leaders when you attend this course, an invaluable resource. If you can't attend a course, speak to your District/County DofE Adviser about where you can buy a copy.

## What resources do I need?

To get started there is very little that you require. The essential resource to have is a copy of the latest edition of the DofE Handbook for Leaders, this will give you all the rules and requirements and talk you through being a DofE Leader. You'll get a copy of this when you attend an Intro to the DofE course or copies can be obtained from the DofE shop.

In addition to this there is a wide range of publicity materials, some specific to the DofE and others produced to promote the DofE within Scouting along side the Scouting awards. These include;

## The Scout Information Centre

Gilwell Park Chingford London E4 7QW Tel + 44 (0)20 8433 7100 Fax + 44 (0)20 8433 7103 email [info.centre@scout.org.uk](mailto:info.centre@scout.org.uk) [www.scoutbase.org.uk](http://www.scoutbase.org.uk)

- A perfect match flyer – This flyer outlines the links between the two sets of awards and explains the process for young people participating through The Scout Association. These flyers are available free of charge from the Information Centre.
- Scout promotional posters – available free of charge from the Information Centre or as downloads from [www.scouts.org.uk/dofe](http://www.scouts.org.uk/dofe).

The DofE have produced a number of resources to help young people plan their programmes, these are all available to download from [www.dofe.org](http://www.dofe.org).

### **How long will it take?**

The minimum time requirements for each section are expressed in months, during which the young person needs to undertake a regular commitment averaging at least an hour a week.

The young person has until their 25<sup>th</sup> birthday to complete any of the Awards, but it takes: at least 6 months at Bronze, at least 12 months at Silver and at least 18 months at Gold for direct entrants.

### **Why do both?**

Why not? By registering for the DofE and Scouting Awards the young person can gain twice the recognition for the efforts they put in. Both Scouting and D of E awards are recognised by employers, colleges and universities.

### **What happens when a young person moves from Explorers to Network?**

As far as the DofE is concerned they just keep working towards it. The person who supports them through their programme may change, but their participation in it doesn't.