Wokingham Borough Council Duke of Edinburgh Open Award Centres

Contact Details

Wokingham Youth Centre
35 Reading Road
Wokingham
RG41 1EG

General Enquiries: DofE@wokingham.gov.uk 0118 974 6271

Weekly Training and Support

There is a training programme which each participant must attend to gain the necessary skills and knowledge to undertake an expedition. They also need to get to know their expedition group in order to plan and undertake the expedition in a team work style. These are held:

Wokingham Youth Centre
- Tuesdays 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start until 9pm*
- Wednesdays 7.30pm for a 7.45pm start until 9.30pm

*Staff are available up until 9.30pm for any individual support needed or parent enquiries.
Please check locally with leaders whether the centres are open during the school holiday periods.

Sign-up Evening and First Session Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sign up Deadline</th>
<th>First Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wokingham Centre Tuesday</td>
<td>Tuesday, 14th November 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wokingham Centre Wednesday</td>
<td>Wednesday, 15th November 8 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tuesday, 21st November 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wednesday, 29th November 2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Attendance

There is a requirement that individuals attend at least 80% of the weekly expedition sessions. This is tracked on a weekly basis. The reason for this is for the young person to gain skills needed to safely participate in the expedition and show the required commitment to complete the Award. If attendance falls below this figure then this will be discussed with the young person. It is probable that the young person will be unable to attend the expeditions if attendance is below 80%.
DofE – The Costs Involved

**DofE Registration Costs**

A cheque made payable to Wokingham Borough Council should accompany a completed and signed registration form by the first open session of training.

- **Bronze £26**
- **Silver £26**
- **Gold £33**

**Weekly Training & Support**

There is a cost of £100 subs per year – this can be paid by instalments with prior permission. Please ask a leader if required. Cheques are made payable to Wokingham Borough Council. These costs cover staffing, hire of the centre and any equipment required for the running of the weekly training sessions. The **£100 is required to be paid in full by no later than the 24th March 2017.**

**Expedition Kit Hire**

Expedition kit can be hired for the expeditions with a refundable deposit. We have a wide range of equipment including tents, stoves and sleeping bags. The deposit will be retained where equipment is lost or damaged.

**Expeditions**

A minimum of 2 expeditions are undertaken at each level. Additional expeditions can sometimes be needed if the group required further training and would incur the costs again. We have one scheduled day walk booked in the year for groups that require extra practice at no extra fee. The costs below show the **minimum** price for the expeditions. The price might increase marginally depending on, for example, the numbers of young people signed up. The assessed expedition price is higher to account for the payment of Assessor’s fees.

**Practice**

Minimum for Bronze £50 Silver £70

**Assessed**

Minimum for Bronze £60 Silver £80

**Expected total costs for year Bronze = £236 - £250**
**Expected total costs for year Silver = £276 - £290**

**Other Costs**

Participants will need to provide their food for the expeditions. Usually this is a group effort and costs are shared. The participants will also be required to practice their cooking skills at one of the weekly sessions and so food will need to be provided by the young person for this activity.

In other information, you will notice that the DofE has other sections, apart from the expedition, to complete. The costs for these will depend upon the chosen activity. Many are free, for example after school clubs and volunteering
for the Guides or Scouts. Others may be quite expensive, for example, music lessons or travelling abroad to volunteer. We suggest parents and carers discuss these choices with the participant to agree any financial implications.

**IMPORTANT** Please remember that activities should be checked with the leaders before starting to ensure that they count for the Award and save unwanted expenditure. A list of Programme Ideas is attached.

Wokingham Borough Council would not want any young person to be disadvantaged by any family financial difficulties. There are grants and subsidies available, particularly where a child is entitled to free school meals or requires additional support due to a disability. Please do approach the DofE Co-ordinator of the centre or contact the DofE Manager at DofE@wokingham.gov.uk.

**Dates of Expedition**

Expeditions take place at the weekend or during school holiday periods, between April and October. Where an expedition cannot be attended, the leaders will provide contacts of alternative providers of expeditions, which may be more expensive and could be outside the Wokingham area.

Participants will need transport to get to the start of their expedition and to be picked up when it is complete. This may be provided by parents and often the costs can be shared if families arrange together.

**eDofE**

This is the web-based area where participants need to evidence that they have completed each section of the Award and where they need to get their Assessors for each section to write a report of their activities and progress. There is more information about this in the registration packs and on the DofE website www.DofE.org. Support will be given during the training sessions where a computer can also be accessed if there are no facilities at home. However, participants benefit from support and encouragement at home to keep their records up to date. This is an important area as without completion, the Award cannot be achieved. Please do ask a leader for any further information required.

**Note:** If we need to contact any young person to cancel a session or for any urgent information, this will be done via eDofE where they will receive an email/message. Please ensure your young person checks their eDofE regularly.

**Moving onto Silver**

In order to move up from Bronze to Silver we expect the young person to have completed 3 out of the 4 sections of their DofE with the fourth completed prior to their practice expedition. These completed sections **must** be uploaded onto their eDofE account. Failure to have the fourth completed prior to the practice expedition will mean the young person will be unable to continue with their Silver Award.