



**Information Pack on The Duke of Edinburgh's Awards and the Chief Scout
Platinum and Diamond Awards and the Queen's Scout Award**



Braid District Explorers

Simon Cocker
DofE Leader

dofebraid@gmail.com

David Ingram
District Explorer Scout Commissioner

braiddesc@gmail.com



Welcome to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award

This pack gives you information on the DofE Award Scheme run by Braid District Explorers and how to register to complete the Awards with the District.

Registration

Registration is now open for the 2019/2020 session, and if you wish to complete DofE with us, we would encourage you to do the following as soon as possible, so that individuals can start on the non-expedition sections right away. To register:

- Please email as soon as possible dofebraid@gmail.com with your:
 - Name
 - Explorer Unit
 - Email address for **your parent/guardian** and **yourself**
 - Which DofE Award you wish to complete (Bronze, Silver, Gold)
 - Attach an electronic copy (scan/photo) of the DofE Participation Form available at:
<https://www.scouts.scot/media/1273/dofe-participant-enrolment-form.pdf>
 - You should enter "South East Scotland" as Region, "Braid" for District, and your Explorer Unit (e.g. Albatross, Exodus, Greenbank, Meadows, Myreside, SMESU) on the Form.
- You will receive an email to confirm whether a place is available and the steps you will need to take to complete registration and make payment of the registration and training fees via the Online Scout Manager system.
- The initial email will also have information on how we manage personal data and contact details for each Explorer and how you can access and update this directly. It is **very important** that you review and keep personal information and your email address(es) up to date at all times as we use these for all our communication and information needed in activities and emergencies

Please note:

- If we are oversubscribed, we will take participants on a first come first served basis
- Explorer Scouts may have completed previous awards through other Licensed operators (e.g. their school), but are welcome to join the District programme for their next award (or transfer their current one) if they prefer

Introduction Meeting

Once numbers have been confirmed we will be running an "Introduction to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award" evening to give you information on what you will need to do to complete the Award, and to give you the opportunity to cover any questions you may have. More details will be communicated in due course, but you may prefer to register once you have had the opportunity to attend the meeting.

Joint Training/Expeditions with Craigmmond District

Provision of DofE Expedition training and supervision of expeditions requires significant effort and expertise from volunteers. Last year we joined forces with Craigmmond District to everyone's benefit and will be doing so again this year.

This may mean that Braid Explorers are taking part in training or expeditions which are being led by Craigmmond District leaders, attending training sessions in Craigmmond District halls, and be in expedition groups with Craigmmond Explorers.

Explorer Scout Top Awards (Chief Scout Platinum, Diamond and Queen's Scout Award)

While this programme is badged as DofE, it is often not appreciated that the Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme covers most of the requirements of the Chief Scout Platinum, Diamond and Queen's Scout Award, and that Explorer Scouts can easily "get two for the price of one" at each level by completing extra requirements for the matching Explorer Awards. Please do look at the relevant information in the next sections and complete the Platinum, Diamond and Queen's Scout Award. The last is very much the pinnacle of Explorer Scouts and all recipients can travel to Windsor Castle for the annual presentation ceremony and meet members of the Royal Family and Bear Grylls.

Volunteering, Physical and Skills Sections

In addition to the training and practice and assessed Expeditions you will need to undertake Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections which are detailed later to obtain the Award.

These are different to the expeditions in that you will need to decide what you want to do for each one, arrange this and an adult to assess you, and when you complete it, update your online DofE records on the edofe system. It is very much your responsibility to take the initiative and plan and complete the sections, with the support and help of your Explorer Scout Leaders.

If you have any questions, do feel free to contact us at the following email addresses: dofebraid@gmail.com

Also please see www.dofe.org for a wealth of supporting information

Other Options for Expeditions

The majority of DofE participants complete expeditions on foot however it is possible to do expeditions by many other means of travel – e.g. cycling, kayaks, sailing.

Recently a number of Explorers have asked if it is possible to complete their expeditions by kayak, sailing and on bikes. We do want to provide expeditions that match Explorer's skills and interests – so if you would like to do a different type of expedition let us know by email on dofebraid@gmail.com and we will see if there is sufficient interest and a way to make it possible.

Volunteers – PLEASE READ

Firstly we want to recognise the time, energy and enthusiasm of our volunteers who have helped us expand from providing only Bronze & Silver to one until 4 years ago to all three Awards across 3 units last year – it's a tremendous achievement and it's been very rewarding to see the benefit to the Explorers as they have progressed.

More volunteers are needed to continue this growth and success. If you have some time and any of the following skills to offer - office/admin, hillwalking or equipment care/management – we would love the opportunity to discuss options that fit the time you have available (whether that is a little or a lot). Even though the time you have may be too little we have some examples of "job shares" to make sure volunteers have the flexibility to make it practical. In closing, the reward package is of course excellent – spending time with a great bunch of people, the satisfaction in passing on your skills to young people, and seeing the impact as Explorers, experience adventure, challenge and develop skills for life!

Doing your Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE)

There are three levels of DofE programme:

- ✦ Bronze (minimum age 14*)
 - ✦ Silver (minimum age 15)
 - ✦ Gold (minimum age 16).
- If there are Scouts who are planning to become Explorers and will be 14 by 31/03/2020 they are welcome to apply

To achieve your Award you must set goals and work towards them in the following sections:

- ✦ Volunteering.
- ✦ Skill.
- ✦ Physical
- ✦ Expedition
- ✦ Residential (Gold level only)

What do I need to do?

You will need to agree on an activity for each section and set some goals with your Leader. This might include Scouting activities such as hiking, taking part in staged performances or being a Young Leader. It may also include hobbies such as dancing, playing a sport or learning a musical instrument. You're probably already doing some activities that could count. It is up to you whether you decide to start something as a beginner or work on an existing interest – as long as you are developing and having fun!

How long will it take?

The duration of each section can be seen on the following pages (it varies between levels). You must complete an hour a week (or equivalent; such as two hours every two weeks) of your Volunteering, Skill and Physical activity for its duration. All awards must be completed by your 25th birthday.

But what about my Scouting awards?

There's more good news! Time spent on completing your DofE programme also counts towards your top awards (Chief Scout Platinum, Diamond and Queen's Scout Award) in Scouting. The top awards in Scouting have been carefully aligned with the DofE programme meaning that if you are registered for one you may as well register for the other.

The Queen's Scout Award (QSA) is the very top award in Scouts. There are just a few more requirements on top of the DofE Gold Award you'll need to complete to achieve both awards! They are both highly respected by potential employers, colleges and universities, so the awards are great additions to your CV!

As a District we want all our Explorers to have the opportunity to achieve the QSA and encourage them to talk to their own Explorer Scout leaders about how to do this. Further details can also be obtained by emailing dofebraid@gmail.com

There is an excellent new handbook "Reach the Top" covers all the Explorer Scout "Top Awards" in detail which is available at: [https://members.scouts.org.uk/documents/Memberresources/Reach the Top June 2019.pdf](https://members.scouts.org.uk/documents/Memberresources/Reach%20the%20Top%20June%202019.pdf)

Bronze (14+ years old)



Volunteering	Physical	Skills	Expedition
3 months*	3 months*	3 months*	(plan, train for and complete) 2 days and 1 night

*You also have to do three more months in one of the Volunteering, Physical or Skill sections as one section has to be for a minimum of 6 months.

Chief Scout's Platinum Award (14-18 year olds)



In addition to the above you need to complete the following:

- Be a member of Explorer Scouts for at least six months.
- Complete six nights away, four of which must be camping.
- Complete two activities from the International, Community and Values (ICV) list available online at [scouts.org.uk/icvplatinum](https://members.scouts.org.uk/icvplatinum) (each activity should be from a different area).

- [https://members.scouts.org.uk/documents/Memberresources/Chief Scout Platinum Award Log book - June 2019.pdf](https://members.scouts.org.uk/documents/Memberresources/Chief%20Scout%20Platinum%20Award%20Log%20book%20-%20June%202019.pdf)

Silver (15+ years old)



Volunteering	Physical	Skills	Expedition
6 months	One section for 6 months and the other section for 3 months		(plan, train for and complete) 3 days and 2 nights

If you didn't complete your Bronze DofE Award, you must undertake a further 6 months in a section you are already doing for 6 months. This will make one section a minimum of 12 months.

Chief Scout's Diamond Award (14-25 year olds)



If you didn't complete your Bronze DofE Award or your Chief Scout's Platinum Award, you must undertake a further 6 months in a section for which you are already doing for 6 months. This will make one section a minimum of 12 months.

In addition to the above you need to complete the following:

- Be a member of Explorer Scouts/Scout Network for at least 12 months. Complete twelve nights away, eight of which must be camping. This may include the nights counted for the Chief Scout's Platinum Award.
- Also complete four activities from the ICV list available online at [scouts.org.uk/icvdiamond](https://members.scouts.org.uk/icvdiamond). These should be different activities from your Chief Scout's Platinum Award and should include at least one from each area.

- [https://members.scouts.org.uk/documents/Memberresources/Chief Scout Diamond Award log book - June 2019.pdf](https://members.scouts.org.uk/documents/Memberresources/Chief%20Scout%20Diamond%20Award%20log%20book%20-%20June%202019.pdf)

Gold (16+ years old)



Volunteering	Physical	Skills	Expedition	Residential
12 months	One section for 12 months and the other section for 6 months		(plan, train for and complete) 4 days and 3 nights	Take part in a shared activity in a residential setting away from home for 5 days and 4 nights

If you didn't complete your Silver DofE Award, you must undertake a further 6 months in a section you are already doing for 12 months. This will make one section a minimum of 18 months.

Queen's Scout Award (16-25 year olds)



If you haven't completed your Silver DofE Award or your Chief Scout's Diamond Award, you must undertake a further 6 months in a section you are already doing for 12 months. This will make one section a minimum of 18 months.

In addition to the above you need to complete the following:

- Be a member of Explorer Scouts/Scout Network for at least 18 months. Complete 18 nights away, 12 of which must be camping.
- Complete six activities from the ICV list available online at scouts.org.uk/icvqsa, two from each area. If you hold the Chief Scout's Platinum Award, you only need to do four activities. If you have the Chief Scout's Diamond Award, you only need to do two activities.
- As the final activity, give a presentation to a suitable audience, that covers all elements of your award.

- [https://members.scouts.org.uk/documents/QSA Log book and completion form - August 2019.pdf](https://members.scouts.org.uk/documents/QSA_Log_book_and_completion_form_-_August_2019.pdf)

Duke of Edinburgh Award – Braid District - typical costs

Award	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Registration with DofE (via Scout Association)	£27.00	£27.00	£33.00
Training Evenings	£26.00	£26.00	£26.00
Practice Expedition	£20.00	£35.00	£58.00
Qualifying Expedition	£20.00	£35.00	£58.00
Estimated Total	£93.00	£123.00	£175.00*

Registration and training costs are payable on registering for a DofE Award level, and expedition costs are charged a few weeks beforehand when final details are known.

A large team of volunteers give their time and energy to run this programme, and we aim to keep costs below those typically charged by local schools and other providers. Scouts is a non-profit charity, and all funds are used to support the District Explorer programme and purchase and replacement of activity equipment.

We very much want all Explorers to have the opportunity to participate in the DofE Award Scheme. If the cost or indeed any other aspect is a barrier for anyone to take part due to personal circumstances, please contact the DofE Leader, in confidence (simon.cocker@sesscouts.org.uk mobile 07970 516039) to discuss ways in which we may be able to provide support.

The only other additional costs for individuals would be:

- *Costs for Gold Residentials are not shown as individual choices can vary widely ranging from acting as a volunteer at a local Scout Outdoor centre in Scotland (can include participating in ScotJam at Lochgoilhead or in international Jamboree contingents) to attending a training event (e.g. cookery) in another country.
- Personal kit & equipment and shared costs for food for expeditions. All camping gear, maps, compasses etc. are provided. Local retailers (e.g. Tiso, Go Outdoors offer discounts to members of the Scouts and DofE participants (typically 10%) and to adult volunteers supporting them (15%).
- Travel to and from expeditions – due to Gold Expeditions being held in more remote terrain, travel distances from Edinburgh will be longer than Bronze/Silver.
- Groups are issued with certain equipment such as tents, stoves, first aid kits, maps and compasses. Where these have been lost or damaged through lack of attention or abuse, we reserve the right to charge groups/individuals as appropriate for repair or replacement.

Award-specific Programmes – Expeditions

It is important that Explorers are trained and have the skills to complete expeditions safely. To ensure this we expect a high level of commitment to attend training and to participate fully as a group member in planning and preparation, although we do understand some absences may be unavoidable. Ultimately, the Supervisor responsible for the safety of each expedition will assess participants individually and will only allow them to take part if they can demonstrate they are competent and have all of the necessary skills to undertake the expedition safely.

Attendance at the Practice Expedition, the Qualifying Expedition and the Project Presentation are compulsory stages of the DofE programme. Failure to attend will mean that participants are unable to continue to the next stage. There are occasionally circumstances when an Explorer is unable to attend either one or both of the practice and assessed expeditions, and we can often find an alternative with other DofE groups within our Region with sufficient advance notice.

Programme for 2019/2020

The programme is still being planned, to take account of the availability of volunteers, school calendars etc. The programmes for 2019 are shown so participants are aware of the time and activities involved – and we will issue actual scheduled for this year as soon as we know numbers of participants and planning is completed.

Core expedition skills training is shown in the Bronze programme, as most Explorers start with the Bronze Award. If an Explorer wants to register and start with Silver and Gold (see minimum ages), they will need to complete the core training in Bronze to obtain the base skills for expeditions as well as the training for their Award which will focus more on expedition planning and skills refresh.

Our main venues for indoors training are at either Marchmont St Giles Parish Church, 3 Kilgrastion Road, Edinburgh, EH9 2DW or 71st Craigmmond Scout Hall, 233 Costorphine Road, EH12 7AR

Bronze Calendar

Date (2019)	Time	Venue	Attendees	Event	Bring with you
Sun 03.03.19	7.30 -9pm	71 st Hall	Bronze DofE Explorers	Route planning and introduction to navigation – Map Reading, using a Compass, Finding your way. Fitness for Expedition, Kit required	
Sun 10.03.19	7.30 -9pm	71 st Hall	Bronze DofE Explorers	First Aid, Safety and Emergency Procedures, Weather,	
Sun 17.03.19 NB Earlier time	3.00 -5pm	Davidson's Mains Park	Bronze DofE Explorers	Map & compass exercise (outdoor), Equipment and Camp Craft (including catering, use of stoves and pitching tents)	Dress for the weather
Sun 24.03.19	7.30 -9pm	71 st Hall	Bronze DofE Explorers	Meal planning, Caring for the Countryside (Scottish Access Code), Expedition Aim, Distribution of expedition equipment	

30-31.03.19	2 days	TBC	Bronze DofE Explorers	Practice Expedition	
Thursday 04.04.19	7.30 -9pm	TBC	Bronze DofE Explorers	Return of Equipment	All borrowed kit
Sun 28.04.19	7.30 -9pm	71 st Hall	Bronze DofE Explorers	Lessons learned from practice expedition & Assessed Expedition Route Map preparation.	
Sun 12.05.19	7.30 -9pm	71 st Hall	Bronze DofE Explorers	Refresher – camp craft, safety, navigation, menu plan Distribution of expedition equipment	
18-19.05.19	2 days	Lammermuirs	Bronze DofE Explorers	Assessed Expedition	
Thursday 23.05.19	7.30 -9pm	TCB	Bronze DofE Explorers	Return of Equipment	All borrowed kit

Silver

Date (2019)	Time	Venue	Attendees	Event	Bring with you
Sun 05 05.19	6.30 -8.30pm	St Giles Church Halls Marchmont	Silver DoE Explorers	Team formation. Navigation practice & Practice Expedition routes preparation. Personal fitness plan	Maps & compass if you have them. Your laptops & be able to access eDofE
Sun 19.05 19	6.30 -8.30pm	St Giles Church Halls Marchmont	Silver DoE Explorers	Practice Expedition routes submitted for approval, First Aid, Safety & Emergency Procedures, Campcraft, Weather, Menu Planning & Kit required refresher	Maps & compass if you have them. Your laptops & be able to access eDofE
Sun 02.06.19	10am -3pm	Pentlands	Silver & Gold DofE Explorers	Navigation Practice (more details to be issued closer to the date)	Dress for the weather, packed lunch
Mon 03.06.19	7.30 – 9.30pm	St Giles Church Halls Marchmont	Meadows Silver DoE Explorers	Kit issued (i.e. tents, stoves, first aid kit, map and compass) Each shared equally between 2 Explorers	Your rucksacks
Fri 07.06.2019 to Sun 09.06.19	2pm (Fri) to 4pm (Sun)	Trossachs	Silver DoE Explorers	Practice Expedition (participation from + parental consent with full details nearer the date)	Kit as per 19.05.19 briefing
Mon 10.06.19	7.30 -9.30pm	St Giles Church Halls Marchmont	Meadows Silver DoE Explorers	Return kit – clean & dry!	
Sun 23.06.19	6.30 -8.30pm	St Giles Church Halls Marchmont	Silver DoE Explorers	Lessons learned from practice expedition. Create personal action plans to do between now & qualifier Qualifier expedition area notification	Maps & compass if you have them. Your laptops & be able to access eDofE
Sun 15.09.19	6.30 -8.30pm	St Giles Church Halls Marchmont	Silver DoE Explorers	Assessed Expedition Route Map preparation & approval	Maps & compass if you have them. Your laptops & be able to access eDofE

Mon 16.09.19	7.30 – 9.30pm	St Giles Church Halls Marchmont	Meadows Explorers (Janet P to arrange for Braid Explorers)	Kit issued (i.e. tents, stoves, first aid kit, map and compass) Each shared equally between 2 Explorers	
Fri 20.09.2019 to Sun 22.09.19	2pm (Fri) to 4pm (Sun)	South of Peebles	Silver DoE Explorers	Assessed Expedition - participation from + parental consent with full details issued nearer the date)	
Mon 23.09.19	7.30 -9.30pm	St Giles Church Halls Marchmont	Silver DoE Explorers	Meadows Silver DoE Explorers return kit (Janet P to arrange for Braid Explorers)	
Sun 29.09.19	6.30 to 8.30pm	St Giles Church Halls Marchmont	Silver DoE Explorers + Parents (optional)	Expedition presentation	Your presentation and any props to support your presentation

Gold

Date (2019)	Time	Venue	Attendees	Event	Bring with you
Sun 26.05.19	7.30-9pm	71 st Hall	Gold DoE Explorers	Practice Expedition Route Map Prep, Aim	Maps & compass if you have them. Your laptops & be able to access eDofE
Sun 02.06.19	10am -3pm	Pentlands	Gold and Silver DofE Explorers	Navigation Practice	Dress for the weather, packed lunch
Sun 09.06.19	7.30 -9pm	71 st Hall	Gold DofE Explorers	Finalisation and submission of Assessed Exped Route Card Practice Exp Kit distribution, Menu Plan	Maps & compass if you have them. Your laptops & be able to access eDofE
Sun 16.06.19	7.30 -9pm	71 st Hall	Gold DofE Explorers	1 st Aid, safety, navigation, menu plan, Distribution of Kit	
Mon 24- Thurs 27 June 19	4 days	Glen Lyon Area		Gold Practice Expedition	Personal & shared kit + food!
Sun 30.06.19? TBC	TBC	TBC	Gold DofE Explorers	Return of Equipment	All borrowed kit
Sun 18.08.19	7.30 -9pm	71 st Hall	Gold DofE Explorers	Refresher – Route, Aim, 1 st Aid, safety, navigation. Menu plan. Distribution of Kit	Maps & compass if you have them. Your laptops & be able to access eDofE
Thurs 22 – Mon 26 August 19	5 days	Corrou Area	Gold DofE Explorers	Gold Assessed Expedition	Personal & shared kit + food!
Sun 01.09.19	7.30 -9pm	71 st Hall	Gold DofE Explorers Parents	Gold Presentations by Expedition Groups. Kit return	All borrowed kit Prepared presentations