



August 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your son/daughter as part of his/her Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Bronze level has to take part in a two-day assessment expedition with one overnight stay in tents. The purpose of this expedition is for candidates to demonstrate their expedition skills such as route planning, navigation, campcraft, fitness and teamwork.

Candidates must plan and carry out an assessment expedition with the minimum of assistance from staff. Groups therefore will not be accompanied by staff on their expedition route. Assessment and safety checks will be carried out by staff who will visit candidates at their campsite and who may shadow the group for all or part of their route.

The expedition involves strenuous walking with heavy rucksacks. Foul weather conditions may be encountered. Therefore candidates must have a reasonable level of physical fitness and be in good health before embarking upon the venture. Only pupils who have completed Bronze expedition training (including the satisfactory completion of a training expedition) are eligible for assessment and assessment candidates must attend all training and preparation sessions prior to going out on expedition. Competency in the following areas must be demonstrated by candidates for the successful completion of an assessment expedition.

- Physical fitness
- General organisation
- Care of equipment and cooperation with staff in expedition store procedures
- Commitment to group expedition preparation and route planning
- Care for the environment

All candidates have been issued with an booklet giving advice and guidance on Bronze assessment expeditions

Assessment groups are expected to following their planned routes unless foul weather, illness or injury necessitates a change of route.

Candidates must also produce a written account of their expedition experiences afterwards to fulfil the requirements of the expedition section of the Award.

All assessment expeditions will take place in the Ochil Hills and are planned for the following weekends:-

17-18th September

24-25th September

8-9th October *

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| All candidates who play for a school rugby or hockey team must choose this weekend to avoid a clash with important fixtures. |
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Candidates must take part in one of these expeditions. In each case the expedition will leave Dollar on the Saturday morning, returning on the Sunday afternoon/evening.

Candidates have been provided with a list of necessary equipment and should note that carrying the correct equipment is compulsory. Assessors will carry out an equipment check with all groups at the start of each expedition. Certain items of equipment are available for hire from the school stores and these are indicated on the equipment list provided. A cash deposit of £20.00 is also payable which is returned when equipment is handed back on time and in good order.

Please note that the use of mobile phones by candidates is not encouraged on these expeditions. The use of mobile phones goes against the ethos of isolation and adventure which is an essential part of these trips. It can also lead to a false sense of security in remote mountain areas in which mobile phones often do not work. The inappropriate use of mobile phones on assessment expeditions could result in candidates failing that assessment. Each group, however, will be asked to carry a mobile phone for use in emergency situations only.

If you require further information please do not hesitate to contact me in school by telephone or e-mail (fraser-jb@dollaracademy.org.uk).

Yours faithfully

John Fraser
Expeditions Organiser

Please print out, complete and return the attached permission slip to Mr Fraser by **Friday 9th September.**



PERMISSION SLIP

Please complete the following form, detach and return to Mr Fraser by Friday 9th September

Iparent/guardian of
.....in Form Class have read the
information about the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh`s Award assessment expeditions and give permission
for my son/daughter/ward to take part on.....(date).

I understand that in the event of serious accident or injury to my son/daughter/ward every effort will be made to contact me. Where this proves impossible, I hereby consent to my son/daughter/ward receiving any medical/surgical/dental treatment including a general anaesthetic and/or blood transfusion (please delete as appropriate), as considered necessary by the Medical Authorities present.

I understand that it may be necessary, in exceptional and emergency circumstances, for me or a nominated representative to travel to the site of medical treatment (which may be to the group`s location) to take over responsibility for my son/daughter/ward.

Should my son/daughter/ward require treatment for minor ailments, I give permission for expedition leaders or their deputies to administer, as appropriate (*strike out whichever does not apply*):

- 1. paracetamol or other analgesics (for relief of pain or fever)
- 2. antihistamine (for relief of hayfever, insect bites or other allergic reactions)

I give details below of any other medication, prescribed or non-prescribed, that my son/daughter/ward may need to carry, or those to which he/she is allergic.

I furthermore give permission for expedition leaders or their deputies to help administer these medicines if required.

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| <p>1. Current medical conditions or concerns of which expedition staff should be aware (please include any relevant condition already notified to the school):</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>2. Medication required for this / these condition(s)</p> <p>.....</p> <p>3. Instructions for the administration of any medication being carried to treat the condition(s):</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>4. I understand that if my child is not carrying the medication noted at (2) above at the time that the trip begins he / she will not be permitted to participate and I will be responsible for collecting him / her from the intended point of departure.</p> |
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| <p>I can be contacted at the following numbers at all times during the time of the trip:</p> |
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Signature Date

