

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS PROGRAM

The Duke of Edinburgh Awards Program is based on the belief that the future of our civilization will depend on the ability and willingness of the young people of today to give their best service to the community and to grow up as well developed individuals. It is the belief of His Royal Highness that there is a great wealth of excellence among young people, particularly among those leaving school at an early age, which is allowed to go undiscovered. He believes that all young people should be given the fullest opportunities to make the best use of their leisure both actively and creatively, and that the note to strike in providing such opportunities is one of challenge. the wider the challenge the bigger the response.

In setting up a Duke of Edinburgh (D of E) Awards Program in a squadron, enthusiastic and dedicated leaders are a prime requirement. One person should be given the responsibility for supervising the entire activity. This program should be his/her main contribution to the squadron, or his/her only contribution if the squadron has a large number of candidates. The task of leading a D of E Awards Program is too demanding to be considered as a secondary duty.

Program Outline. The D of E program embodies four principal groups, or sections, of activities to which certain standards of achievement have been attached. Standards are achieved through three levels related to the abilities of most young people. These are the Bronze, Silver and Gold levels. The four groups or sections of activity are as follows.

Section 1 - Rescue and Public Service

The object of this section is to influence young people to realize that as members of a community they have an obligation towards First Aid, Life-saving, etc

Public service involves a squadron First Aid course at the outset of the program. In performing a voluntary service at any of the levels the leader can make the arrangements and the cadet gives up a portion of his leisure time in service to others. He/She may take more advanced first aid training at the Silver level instead of service. The adult coordinator should periodically check the progress of the individual, and see that an appropriate community group or leader verifies or assesses the service performed.

Lecturing on a regular basis in the home squadron can be counted as a service. There is a wide choice of subjects concerning various forms of Rescue and Public Service Training, such as:

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| 1. First Aid | 6. Fire Volunteer |
| 2. Life Saving | 7. Youth Service |
| 3. YMCA Leader | 8. Police Service |
| 4. Hospital Work | 9. Civil Defence |
| 5. Instructing | 10. Ground Search Teams |

Most public services are listed in the Duke of Edinburgh's Leader Handbook, but many others are also acceptable.

It should not be difficult for any well-run squadron to qualify cadets in this section. For example, the squadron might run First Aid courses, as mandatory or optional subjects, to cover all three levels. Also, senior cadets who serve as instructors in their home squadrons could qualify by this means.

Section 2 - Expeditions

The purpose of this section is to develop initiative, responsibility and self-reliance and to give an outlet for the spirit of adventure. This section involves the carrying out of an expedition, constituting a group effort in open country covering a period of 24 hours on foot at the Bronze level, and rising to three nights camping-out in wild country at the Gold level. The expedition calls for knowledge of map-reading, first aid and light weight camping; and may be done by sailing, by canoe, or on foot or bicycle etc., at the silver and gold levels.

The Expedition phase can be carried out during any season on any week-end. The cadets can prepare the route and the details subject to approval of the adult Coordinator. The Coordinator must also be prepared to visit camp sites and to check the cadets at certain points of the expedition. Preceding the expedition, a series of initiative training classes should be given as a squadron optional subject with the use of the initiative training manuals. Map and compass work must be done before the expedition, as well as other aspects of camping and hiking.

Candidates must work in groups of not less than two, (four in wild country) and not more than six to train for, plan and carry out a cross-country journey at each stage. Preliminary training must be taken in:

Casualty Code	Safety Precautions	Camp Craft
Map and Compass	Cooking	Country Code

An initiative Training Program may be run as a squadron optional subject using Air Cadet Training Manual TC-524 - Second Year.

Candidates must be properly equipped for the type of country where the expedition is to be carried out. The requirements at each level are:

- (a) Bronze Level At least 15 miles on foot across normal country using roads as little as possible. The journey is to be completed in two days, including one night in tents, bivouacs, or in the open.
- (b) Silver Level At least 30 miles across country to be completed in three days, including two nights in separate camp sites.
- (c) Gold Level At least 50 miles across wild country such as mountain areas. The journey is to be completed in four days, including three nights at different camp sites.

Candidates entering directly at the Silver or Gold levels must first pass all tests for the lower levels of this section. For Silver and Gold, comparable journeys on bicycles, in canoes, on skis or on horseback may be taken.

To make this section of the Program easier for cadet instructors, it is suggested they take different weekends for each Level and find one general area where all hikes can take place. For example, all Bronze hikes could be held on one weekend in a general area of 50 miles.

For more information on this and the other sections, the 'Duke of Edinburgh in Canada Leader's Handbook' is a must. Minimum work in planning is required. Most of this phase is handled by participants under adult supervision.

Section 3 - Pursuits and Projects

This Section is defined as purposeful or creative activities calling for initiative and perseverance, with the object of discovering and developing the natural interests and aptitude of the individual. The application of a sustained effort rather than a certain standard of accomplishment is the governing factor in these activities. The subjects cover the widest possible field and may, for example, include: metal and woodworking, model making, photography, gliding, flying, scuba diving, etc.

The Pursuits and Projects phase is done by the cadet in his leisure time. The adult Coordinator must check progress periodically and see that the required time is spent on the pursuit. The pursuit may be changed at the end of each stage of the program or may be followed through all three stages of the scheme. Syllabuses for a wide variety of activities are given in the Handbook of Syllabuses. Candidates should be assessed on their interest, progress, and general sustained effort over the following minimum periods: Bronze - 6 months; Silver - 8 months; Gold - 12 months.

Some of the hobbies related to Air Cadets directly are:

Aircraft Modelling	Aircraft Recognition	Military / Brass Bands
Aeronautics	Astronomy	Debating
Marksmanship	Meteorology	Radio
Photography	Music	Gliding
Bugle & Trumpet	Drums	Civics
Judo	Gymnastics	

All these and many more are outlined in the Leader's Handbook.

Section 4 - Physical Fitness

This section relates to the attainment of established standards in athletics and swimming, together with other activities calling for stamina, strength, skill, speed etc. It can be done in conjunction with Summer Camp sports, a squadron athletic program or in the school. Tests can be carried out by the school PT instructor at the Silver and Gold level. The Bronze tests can be carried out by a cadet from the Athletic Instructor course or a member of the squadron staff. The point of this section is not competition among people, but competition by people against a reasonable standard.

To qualify in this section a candidate may choose from two alternative sets of tests.

Test 1 A candidate must pass in three of the following groups:

- (a) Running or walking;
- (b) Jumping;
- (c) Throwing;
- (d) Swimming;
- (e) Physical efficiency;
- (f) Sporting activities (Gold level only).

To pass in the first five groups, a candidate must achieve the set standard in one event from that group. To pass in group (f) he/she must achieve the set standards in three events, each one from a different sub-group.

Test 2 A candidate must pass in two groups:

- (a) Bronze level - Physical efficiency and either athletics or swimming.
- (b) Silver level - Physical efficiency and either athletics, swimming or a sport.
- (c) Gold level - Either any two out of physical efficiency, athletics, swimming, a sport, a game or two sports.

To make this section easier to administer, it is suggested that squadrons hold sports days, at which time the cadets may be tested against the standards. It is also permissible to use Summer Camp records from sports activities of the candidates.

Awards

Awards, in the form of badges and certificates, are given for achievement in activities selected from each of the four groups and can be gained in each of the three levels. The first level is Bronze - ages 14 to **16 1/2**; second is Silver - ages 15 to **17 1/2**; and the final level is Gold - ages 16 to 19. Cadets may start the program on any of the three levels if they come under the following conditions:

- (a) candidates over the age of 15 may enter directly at the Silver Level; and
- (b) candidates over 17 may enter directly at the gold level.

Candidates must complete each level by the following ages:

- (a) Bronze - **17th** birthday;
- (b) Silver - **18th** birthday;
- (c) Gold - **20th** birthday.

In summary, to qualify for an award at any level the required standards must be reached in each of the four sections of the program:

Section 1 - Rescue and Public Service, Section 2 - Expedition.,
Section 3 - Pursuits and Projects; Section 4 - Physical Fitness.

Gold Awards

For the Gold Award there are two additional requirements.

Residential Qualification. A candidate must attend a course, camp or journey away from his home, during which some service, studies or leisure activities are shared with other young people. It is suggested that a summer camp could be used to cover this section. The period away is to be not less than five continuous days (four nights away). Those at work having only limited holidays may qualify at a series of weekends, providing they spend at least four nights away.

Practical Service to the Community. Some form of practical services to others must be voluntarily undertaken. This should spread over a six-month period.