

26th January 2024

Dear parent/carer,

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

I just wanted to touch base with you and your young person following the DofE session at the Skills & Social Group last week (17.01.24).

edofe App

As part of the day, I was able to meet with most of the young people that will be starting their Bronze award to ensure that they were able to successfully download the 'edofe' app and to register their address, details, etc.

We then had a brief look at what they need to do in terms of developing their own programme (i.e. the volunteering, skills and physical sections of the award) and how this is captured on the app.

Most of the group were able to successfully set up the app, and were going to come home and chat with parents and carers about what they would like to do for their three sections - before putting them all on the app.

I am attaching a video to this email that I would be grateful if you could share with your young person. It shows the initial set up for the app (for those that were unable to do this in the session or who were not there last week) and then goes on to show how to add what activity has been chosen for each of the three sections and how to record updates (either as uploads - pics, screenshots, etc, or as text).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D80IGvCwbhM>

When adding the activity for each section, your young person will need to select the 'type' of activity, what the specific activity is, what the goals are, where it will take place, the name of the person who will be the 'assessor' (i.e. a coach, leader, teacher, manager, etc.) and their position or role.

Finally, the name of the Leader - that will be me - Tracey Boarland!

Once the planner for a section is complete, this can then be submitted for me to approve - and your young person can then start adding evidence to their planner to show what they have done 😊

While we recommend that updates are added weekly, it doesn't matter if it is every other week or few weeks. The DofE award has been designed to be completely accessible to everyone and so is as flexible as each participant needs it to be. We want our young people

to be committed to their programme and to enjoy updating the app with their progress - we don't want them to be stressed and anxious because they haven't done it for a little while!

Practice Expedition

The practice expedition is planned for the weekend of 23/24 March. This will take place in Merriott so it is on familiar ground for everyone. There will be a planned circular walk during the day and then (depending on the weather) the group will go to Jenn's house for a campfire in the garden (with marshmallows!). They will then (again, weather dependent) have the option to stay and camp. It is a good size garden and will enable the young people to practice everything they need (with the luxury of a flushing toilet 😊). The following day, a small walk will be planned in the morning so that the group can practice cooking breakfast and then packing up their tents, rucksacks, etc. before walking. The walk on the Saturday will have taken place after everyone will have had a good night's sleep in their own beds. A walk on the Sunday will give them all the opportunity to see what it's like to walk (with their pack) after sleeping in a tent!

Full expedition

This was planned to take place on the weekend of 20th/21st April, however one of our key volunteers, a member of the armed services, is now unable to commit to those dates. In order to ensure we have both our volunteers at the weekend, we are looking to rearrange the expedition to take place on Saturday 4th/Sunday 5th May. It is just 2 weeks later, but it is the bank holiday weekend – so we are really hoping all our young people will still be able to make it.

We are very sorry that we have not been able to keep the agreed date for the weekend but hope you can understand that this was sadly unavoidable.

In terms of location - we are deciding between two options (both of which are within 5 miles of Merriott) and will let everyone know as soon as possible.

I would be very grateful if you could email me to let me know that your young person will be able to make the new dates for the full expedition (and to confirm that they are still available for the practice one on the 23rd/24th March.

If there is anything you are not sure about, or if you have any questions about anything in this letter, or about the programme in general, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

Thank you for your continued support 😊

With kind regards

Tracey

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