07th November 2026

Dear Leaders, Explorers & Parents and Network member.

There has been sufficient interest for the GLSW [**G**reater **L**ondon **S**outh-**W**est] DofE [**D**uke **of E**dinburgh] Support Team to begin running expedition training for Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh expeditions for 2026/27. Please read the following carefully.

This opportunity is open to all explorer scouts either new to DofE or who had previously attended sessions earlier in the year, or who have done it with School, Police Cadets, CCF, ACF, etc.

The DofE Award Scheme have refreshed their expedition requirements from November 2023, the announcement is here https://www.dofe.org/thelatest/introducing-our-refreshed-expedition-requirements/

So, what is the Duke of Edinburgh Award? https://www.dofe.org/do/basicinformation/

Here is a summary of the training, how it works and when it is;

There will be several weekends and some online team sessions; where we will go over the expedition skills required from the DofE training framework e.g. Introductions, Safety, Food, Some Route Planning, Project Planning, Navigation, Kit checks, Route Planning and Camp Craft: https://www.dofe.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Expedition-training-framework-DofE-2026.pdf

As the Scout Association (TSA) runs DofE as a licenced organisation (LO), it means we have to abide by the rules laid down by the DofE themselves, the main rules for the expedition are the expedition requirements (link above), where it clearly states that “Participants must be adequately trained to safely complete an expedition in the environment in which they will be operating.” [Point 6 of the Before Expedition Section of the Expedition Requirements] and the training framework is as noted above. Both TSA and DofE are inclusive organisations so we may have participants that have never done any form of camping or hiking, in comparison to someone that has come up from Squirrels to Beavers to Cubs to Scouts to Explorers for example. Aswell as participants with individual needs for example Autistic, ADHD, etc. as well as other medical and/or mental health conditions. I as the nominated Supervisor for the Bronze and Silver expeditions still have to make sure that **ALL** participants have completed the training (or been refreshed on it) as per the training framework. I then have to sign off that part of the expedition section of the relevant DofE

award level. Hence the ~4 days training (for Bronze) over the course of the season (~5 for Silver).

All dates are **mandatory** attendance unless you have let me know beforehand. [Jon Parker | dofe.expeditions@glswscouts.org.uk] and an agreed arrangement can be made.

Some weekends like the Residential Expedition Skills weekends on 12/14th February 2026 & 05/07th March 2026 (one of the two are mandatory NOT both), the training/practice weekend on 09/11th April 2027 and the qualifying expedition weekends 26/27th June 27 (Bronze) & 29/31st Aug 27 (Silver) are **mandatory** for award completion. If you are however unable to attend, please let me know **ASAP**. [Jon Parker | dofe.expeditions@glswscouts.org.uk] So alternatives arrangements can be made.

Practice and qualifying expeditions will be delivered under current DofE guidance.

All training, and expedition locations (both training, practice and qualifying) will be local this means parents will need to drop off and collect participants. As minibuses will only be used as emergency and safety vehicles.
We will aim to also hold for Silver an Outdoor First Aid qualification, which will be outdoor orientated, and is like the 16-hour adult version of the certificate and will qualify the explorers to Stage 4 First Aid &/or Module K, of the Young Leader Belt.

Price for the expeditions:
Prices are estimated to be ~£150 for the Bronze training and qualifying expeditions and ~£175 for the Silver practice and qualifying expeditions. There is no charge for the training itself. Camps and Expeditions will be charged per event.

Gold Expedition
The Gold expedition is currently open and is on a first come first served basis, so please sign up ASAP, and will be around £250.

Key Dates:

Wed	23-Sep-26	8PM/20:00 Online Information Evenings:
Wed	07-Oct-26	8PM/20:00 Online Information Evenings:
Wed	21-Oct-26	8PM/20:00 Online Information Evenings:
Wed	04-Nov-26	8PM/20:00 Online Information Evenings:
Sunday	08-Nov-26	18:00 Introduction to DofE Online (Recorded)
Wed	18-Nov-26	8PM/20:00 Online Information Evenings:
Sat/Sun	28/29-Nov-26	eDofE Introduction (½ day AM/PM - Sat and/or Sunday). Online. (All Recorded)
Wed	02-Dec-26	8PM/20:00 Online Information Evenings:
Wed	16-Dec-26	8PM/20:00 Online Information Evenings:
Thu	31-Dec-26	**Deadline to sign up for Gold, Bronze & Silver.**
Online Navigation Quiz (to be made) – To be completed by 06-Feb'27		
Sun	03-Jan-27	Gold Introductory Session (Online)
Sun	10-Jan-27	Gold Initial Practice Planning (Location TBC)
Sun	17-Jan-27	Gold: Route Planning 1 (Location TBC)
Sat/Sun	30/31-Jan-27	One day first aid outdoor certificate: (Location TBC) (all day & either day)
Sat/Sun	06/07-Feb-27	B&S: Route Planning Training Day: (Location TBC) (all day & either day)
Sun	07-Feb-27	Gold: Route Planning 2 (Location TBC)

Fri/Sun	12/14-Feb-27	Bronze & Silver Expedition Skills Weekend (Residential) - Location: TBC (Likely Birchmere)
Fri/Sun	19/21 Feb-27	Gold: Dartmoor Training Camp
Sat	06-Mar-27	Gold: Route Planning 3 (Location TBC)
Fri/Sun	05/07-Mar-27	Bronze & Silver Expedition Skills Weekend (Residential) - Location: TBC (Likely Birchmere)
Sat/Sun	13/14-Mar-27	Route Planning: Bronze for Training (all day & both days) (Location TBC)
Sat/Sun	13/14-Mar-27	Route Planning: Silver for Practice (all day & both days) (Location TBC)
Sun	21-Mar-27	B&S: Navigation Day - Wimbledon Common
Mon/Sun	29-Mar/04-Apr-27	Gold Practice - North Yorkshire
Fri/Sun	09/11-Apr-27	Silver Practice Expedition: Box Hill Area
Fri/Sun	09/11-Apr-27	Bronze Training Expedition: Box Hill Area
Sat/Sun	12/13-Jun-27	Bronze: Route Planning for qualifying expeditions (all day & both days) (Location TBC)
Sat/Sun	26/27 June-27	Bronze Qualifying Expedition (Location: Ashdown Forest)
Sat/Sun	03/04-Jul-27	Silver Route Planning for qualifying expeditions (all day & both days) (Location TBC)
Sat/Sun	10/11-Jul-27	Silver Route Planning for qualifying expeditions (all day & both days) (Location TBC)

Sun/Sat	22/28-Aug-27	Gold Qualifying Expedition (Location: North Wales)
Sun/Tue	29/31-Aug-27	Silver Qualifying Expedition (Location: South Downs)
Sunday	03-Oct-27	Gold, Silver & EB Expedition Aim/Goal/Project Presentation

All Dates and information will be on the county webpage: https://glswscouts.org.uk/dofe/

Links for the Online Information evenings:

Microsoft Teams meeting on 23-Sep-26, 07-Oct-26, 21-Oct-26 & 04-Nov-26

Join Direct: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/354337465758231?p=aFTeOWRvfeHbtBKUEQ

Join a meeting: https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting

Meeting ID: 354 337 465 758 231 & Passcode: gd9At7ke

Download Teams: https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-teams/download-app

Event Descriptions:

Online Information Evenings: Are just that, for all interested parents, explorers and network member to learn about the DofE as a whole and what GLSW DofE Support team offer.

Introduction to DofE & eDofE Introduction: Both online sessions, both are introductions to 2 different areas of the award, **Intro to DofE** is aimed more at new entrants as well as existing participants that may have done it previously with schools, or us in GLSW, or within their own unit. As we go over how we do it in GLSW as a whole and the standard we expect from the participants.
eDofE Introduction is a meeting to login and discuss how the eDofE system works, what it is used for and how to use it. Again, aimed at new DofE participants but previous participants are encouraged to join as we will again set out the standard required and their (the participants) responsibilities in eDofE.

Outdoor First Aid (For Silver & Gold only): Is just that an Outdoor First Aid qualification equivalent to Stage 4 Emergency Aid and Module K of the Young Leaders programme.

Bronze & Silver Expedition Skills Weekend: There will be two and you must one. We learnt from previous seasons that these are a needed weekend, but availability was an issue. These are a Friday night start so will be after school from around 6/7pm arrival onwards.
These weekends we will cover; Safety (Risk Assessing), Food (Menu Planning & Cooking), Project Planning, Navigation, Kit checks, and Camp Craft. Either as a refresher for some of the older participants or an introduction & learning for the new participants. These are Expedition Skills for the expeditions, **nothing to do with the Skills Section of the award**.

Route Planning Training Days: These are training days on Route planning itself, where we will walk you through route cards, how to complete them etc. the standard we expect. This is a one day training session, where you will attend with your team on the Saturday or Sunday.

Route Planning Days: These are for the route planning for the training, practice & qualifying expeditions where the team will get together and plan their teams' routes and complete all the plans. Leaders will be onsite and available to assist and review routes as needed.
On the Saturday mornings of any of the Route planning days we will go over the skills and information required to complete the Route Card, how to complete it and where to find the information to complete it.

Expedition Weekends: Silver Practice and Bronze & Silver Qualifying Expedition Weekends are mandatory for the award, so attendance in mandatory for these, where the participants will complete an assessed expedition, unsupported and unsupervised (they will be monitored, and we will check on them 😊) The Bronze Training expedition (the same weekend as the Silver Practice) is not mandatory for the award but is mandatory attendance as additional training will be done on that weekend it does fall under the expedition requirements for training as this weekend is used to see the expedition skill standards from the training weekends in Feb & Mar'27. With some route planning for the qualifying expedition in June'27 being done, or remedial skills training.
Training Expedition for Bronze will be a Friday night start, with an expedition on the Saturday and some route planning on the Sunday.

Information for Leaders:

During the season (2026/27), Explorers and/or Network may well come to you to borrow kit, please help them as much as you can and let your District DofE Lead know of any issues,

Also, if you do have explorers participating in our expeditions, it would be greatly appreciated if you could either mentor your Explorer and/or offer some assistance during the training.

Dates and links are now on the GLSW DofE Website, so please distribute the separate A4 flier amongst all your groups, leaders and network 😊

Please also remember that it is Year 9 they can start DofE at Bronze, Year 10 for Silver, however if a Scout is 13½, and linking with an explorer, they could be eligible to start DofE with TSA, so please get them to speak with their District DofE Lead.

We are also opening this year's expeditions up to Explorers & Network members not doing DofE but want to get their top awards (Platinum & Diamond or even KSA). If you have anyone that fits into that scenario, please let me know the explorer(s) & parent(s) contact info and I will reach out to them with the necessary information to sign up for the expeditions. The training and expeditions are the same so we can intermix or even have wholly separate teams for them if there are enough 😊

I would also like to extend the invitation to join the DofE experience to the Girl Guides and Rangers, if you have any contacts, please forward this document and my email.

How do I become involved?

There are 3 minimum requirements:

1. **Be an active member** of the Scout Association or Girl Guides Association.

2. To participate in the GLSW DofE Support Team expeditions & training you must be **registered for the DofE award**. If you would like to take part and are not already, please enrol for Bronze, Silver or Gold award using the following form: https://forms.office.com/e/uHpvFuQUye

   If you are not a member of GLSW County, then you need to enrol for the award with your own county, or Girl Guide/Ranger unit. Then let us know and we can advise you on how to carry on further.

   This may take some time to be processed but once complete you should receive a welcome email with information to login to your eDofE portal which you will use to track the award.

3. **To express an interest (Sign Up)** in the GLSW DofE Support Team Expedition & training, please complete this form: https://forms.office.com/e/sgW68h7A3Q

4. If you are NOT doing your DofE award but are aiming for the Top Awards and want to use this as your expedition then email me Jon Parker | dofe.expeditions@glswscouts.org.uk

   Then discuss with your unit leader on how they can support you and your fellow explorers/participants.

If you have any questions, please get in touch.

Many thanks,

Sent on behalf of the GLSW DofE Support Team by;
Jon Parker | dofe.expeditions@glswscouts.org.uk
DofE Expedition Assessor [NOA64588A] | DofE Expedition Supervisor
GLSW DofE Expedition Co-Ordinator | https://glswscouts.org.uk/dofe/