



CAMBRIDGESHIRE OPEN AWARD CENTRE

We hope that this document will answer most of the basic questions about the DofE at **Cambridgeshire D of E Open Award Centre**. If you have any further queries please contact the DofE manager, Tracy Grant, by e-mail

tracy.grant@cambridgeshiredofe.co.uk

Welcome.

We hope you enjoy your participation in the DofE Award. It is a valuable nationally recognised achievement award for all young people from school year 9 to age 25. The Award is split into 4 equally valid and very different sections (5 sections at Gold). DofE recognises these as equivalent ... 25% each (20% each at Gold). So, taking part in ALL sections is always a requirement for completing your full DofE Award.

Think about the activities you already do...I am certain that many of you take part in some of the sectional activities and can easily use those for your DofE sections. Or of course you can pick up something new and different if you prefer. Make sure you have an impartial assessor for each, and you can commit a minimum of 1 hour per week or 2 hours per fortnight to each section for the full timescale duration.

DofE timescales

	BRONZE		SILVER		GOLD	
Volunteering	6 or 3 months	1 section for 6 months	6 months	2 sections for 6 months	12 months	2 sections for 12 months
Physical	6 or 3 month	2 sections for	6 or 3 months	1 section for	12 or 6 months	1 section for 6 months
Skill	6 or 3 months	3 months each	6 or 3 months	3 months	12 or 6 months	
Expedition	2 days 1 night	+ Training + Practice	3 days 2 nights	+ Training + Practice	4 days 3 nights	+ Training + Practice
Residential	N/A		N/A		5 days + 4 nights	
			Direct entrants need an extra 6 months in one of the longer sections		Direct entrants need an extra 6 months in one of the longer sections	

3 months = 13 weeks

6 months = 26 weeks

12 months = 52 weeks

18 months = 78 weeks

Our DofE programme

We will provide

- A portal of learning resources which **must** be accessed throughout the training process
- A 2 day non-residential weekend to cover the Expedition training framework and expedition planning
- A full day walk practical session for every team
- A full residential Practice expedition
- A full residential Assessed expedition
- Full support for any queries regarding the Physical/Skill/Volunteering sections until your full award is completed.

All our Bronze expeditions will take place in the local area (Cambs and surrounding counties), Silver and Gold will be in more appropriate terrain such as the Peaks, Pennines, Dales.

For more information check out our website www.cambridgeshiredofe.co.uk

The Enrolment process



1. Fill out and submit the online enrolment form. Or use the QR code
2. <https://forms.office.com/r/370tYtCXcc>
3. You will be sent a confirmation email.
4. All participants pay the appropriate fee via BACS at enrolment and add the payment details/reference used etc to the enrolment form. It costs slightly more to pay by 3 instalments, as it takes more admin time to check through payments.
5. We will add the participation place to eDofE once form is received and payment is made.
6. The participant will be sent the eDofE login details via email (Username and single use password)
7. Participant logs into eDofE and adds the sectional details, and starts their DofE Award, once the sectional activity has been approved by the DofE manager in eDofE.
8. Participants and parents will receive direct information about the training programme and expeditions via email/via the website in due course.
9. Support for participant and parent queries is available via email/text/telephone, and our social media presence on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/CambsDofE> as well as through the DofE portal

At **Cambridgeshire D of E Open Award Centre** we keep our fees as low as possible. We offer a discount for those who choose to pay the full fee including enrolment and expeditions in the Autumn term.

We have a small bursary fund for those experiencing financial hardship, please ask if you feel you need financial assistance.

The total annual fee is broken down into 3 payments.

- Enrolment and admin fee,
- Training/Practice expedition fee
- Assessed expedition fee

A discount is applied when all three payments are made at enrolment.

	Participation place + admin fee. Payable at enrolment	Training + Practice Expeditions. Payable by Feb 1 st 2026	Assessed expedition Payable by Apr 1 st 2026	Total	Reduced to ... if paying all parts at enrolment
BRONZE AWARD	£55.50	£80	£80	£215.50	£205
	£30.50 for the DofE place	Appropriate remote and face to face training	2 days 1 night		
	£25 admin fee	1 training walk			
		2 day Training/Practice			
SILVER AWARD	£55.50	£130	£130	£315.50	£305
	£30.50 for the DofE place	Appropriate remote and face to face training	3 days 2 nights		
	£25 admin fee	1 training walk			
		2 day + 2 night Practice			
GOLD AWARD	£62.50	£180	£180	£422.50	£405
	£37.50 for the DofE place	Appropriate remote and face to face training	4 days 3 nights		
	£25 admin fee	1 training walk			
		4 day + 3 night Practice			

Other Expenses

Participants are expected to provide the majority of their own personal expedition equipment. The group has a good quality kit store of the more expensive equipment (tents, backpacks, stoves, sleeping mats) which we can loan out in exchange for a small hire charge, for anyone who has difficulty, buying or borrowing equipment.

Personal expedition equipment can be costly, check the sample equipment list on our website, please ask for advice on any purchases. Try to borrow equipment from friends and family wherever possible. Please be aware that for DofE walking expeditions participants **MUST** wear good quality walking **BOOTS** with strong soles and ankle support.

DofE Participants can obtain reductions at many outdoor stores provided they take their DofE reward card/code along and show it to the assistant in charge at the time. Most stores generally offer a 10% or 15% discount when you mention DofE, with or without a DofE card/code.

Please don't allow the cost of things to stop you having a go at The DofE Award. If you have financial difficulties, we have a small bursary fund to help..... if you are keen to join please make contact.

Other information

1. Expedition training will take place through our compulsory online expedition training portal and through the face to face training dates in the Spring term
2. You must attend all compulsory sessions and training for your DofE level.
3. You must attend your Training/Practice expedition dates as well as the Assessed expedition in order to complete the expedition section of your DofE.
4. If you need help with any section of your DofE, volunteer staff are available at each meeting to give advice on the skill, volunteering and physical sections of your D of E. You will be expected to show that you have completed or are in the process of completing at least 2 of these sections of your Award before your Assessed expedition.

For any more information not on this information sheet, please check out our website www.cambridgeshiredofe.co.uk or contact tracy.grant@cambridgeshiredofe.co.uk

Conduct

Good behaviour is expected at all sessions and meetings and during all training and expeditions. Anyone falling below our expected standard may be asked to leave the Award centre. In these instances there will be no refund of any fees paid.