

What is the Duke of Edinburgh's Award?

A life-changing experience. A fun time with friends. An opportunity to discover new interests and talents. A tool to develop essential skills for life and work. A recognised mark of achievement; respected by employers.

The DofE is many things to many people, supporting generations to successfully navigate adult life.

14-24 year-olds can do a DofE programme at one of three progressive levels which, when successfully completed, leads to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

There are [four sections](#) to complete at Bronze and Silver level and five at Gold. They involve helping the community/environment, becoming fitter, developing new skills, planning, training for and completing an expedition and, for Gold only, working with a team on a residential activity.

Any young person can do their DofE – regardless of ability, gender, background or location. Achieving an Award isn't a competition or about being first. It's all about setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries.

Through a DofE programme young people have fun, make friends, improve their self-esteem and build confidence. They gain essential skills and attributes for work and life such as resilience, problem-solving, team-working, communication and drive, enhancing CVs and university and job applications.

The Award has also adapted to the Covid-19 situation meaning all participants can keep going and now achieve the 2020 Certificate:

<https://www.dofe.org/dofewithadifference>

Cumbria Outdoors Open Award

The Cumbria Outdoors Open Award is specifically for young people who wish to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme but are unable to access in the usual ways. Cumbria County Council is a Licensed Organisation and can register your child as an Open Award Participant for:

Bronze £35.50

Silver £35.50

Gold £43.75

This fee includes an administration fee covering ongoing support, regular updates, and administration costs including processing of awards and postage and the ongoing viability of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Programme in Cumbria.

Upon payment you will receive a Welcome Pack (when you log in for the first time), eDofE participation place, welcome email and upon completion your certificate and badge. Advice and support will be given virtually – via Microsoft Teams, Zoom, email

or phone. Currently to complete the Expedition Section you would have to take part in an independently sourced Open Expedition. Please see:

<https://www.dofe.org/opportunity-finder/opportunity-for-dofe-participant> for examples.

Advice on all sections and what qualifies will be provided as well as information on how to log onto eDofE. The DofE website is a useful tool for answering any questions about requirements: <http://www.dofe.org/>

If you would like to take part in the Award please contact Lisa Hignett - DofE Co-ordinator for Cumbria County Council - for an application form. We will invoice you for payment upon receipt of the completed form - places will be allocated once payment is completed.

If you have any further questions about the Cumbria Outdoors Open Award or wish to apply please contact lisa.hignett@cumbria.gov.uk or visit our website <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/cumbriaoutdoors>

