

Completing the Queen's Badge

We want to make sure that we can continue to support our young people in completing the highest award in The Boys' Brigade. We recognise the impact the pandemic has had on the opportunity for young people to start out and complete The Queen's Badge over the last 18+ months.

In response to this we have reviewed the situation and we are introducing some flexibility to enable young people to continue to complete the award. We hope that leaders will continue to support and encourage young people during these challenging times.

Age Requirements

The maximum age for completing the Queen's Badge is normally the end of the session in which a young person attains their 18th birthday. To provide some flexibility on this, if a young person had planned to start the Queen's Badge or was working towards completing the award during the pandemic (i.e. from March 2020 onwards) and has not been able to do so, then they will now have until 31st August 2023 to complete the award, regardless of their age.

Where this is the case participants MUST work separately from young people, and outside of a normal BB meeting, although BB leaders can continue to provide support and encouragement. Where a participant was carrying out volunteering through the BB they MUST become a registered leader and follow our policies & guidance. It is important to remember that as a young person transitions in to leadership that they need to be supported in doing so and understand their responsibilities and boundaries when it comes to being a leader and working with children & young people.

Completing the Award

Leaders are encouraged to support young people to complete the award requirements in full where possible. Although in circumstances where a young person was well on their way to completing the award but has now reached the maximum age and/or is no longer able to participate then the following minimum requirements may be used to authorise the award (up until 31st August 2022), these include:

- **Skills-Based Training** – Participated in Skills for QB or other relevant training either Face-to-Face or virtually.
- **Voluntary service outside Brigade or Church** – completed at least 75% (min 22.5 hours).
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- **Developing Interests:**
 - **Skills** - Completed at least 75% of the requirement.
 - **Physical** - Completed at least 75% of the requirement.
 - **Expedition** – Flexibility in line with DofE Expedition Flexibilities, see dofe.org/dofewithadifference/.
- **Completion Residential** – Attended a Face-to-Face or Virtual Completion Course.

We are also relaxing the requirement for the Completion Course to be at least 6 months after completing the Skills-Based Training.

Young people will also have the opportunity to attend virtual training including the Queen's Badge Completion Course. Details of these opportunities can be found at boys-brigade.org.uk/events/

Any Questions

If you have any questions regarding completing the Queen's Badge then please get in touch with us at programme@boys-brigade.org.uk