



## Boys' Brigade (England & Wales)

### Expedition & Outdoor Leadership (EOL) Skills Refresher Course

The Boys' Brigade (England & Wales) 'Skills Refresher' Course for holders of either the Brigades Expedition & Outdoor Leadership STANDARD or ADVANCED Award.

All 'Skill Refresher' courses will be led by suitably qualified Trainers to ensure that whilst candidates have every opportunity to refresh and hone existing skills, also perhaps learn new ones; ultimately you should still be able to operate at the level required to hold an EOL Award.

The Annual EOL STANDARD & ADVANCED 'Skills Refresher' Course takes place in a suitable 'Wild Country' area as designated by the DofE, but will also utilise terrain suitable for the 'Standard' level such as Lowland/Hill & Moorland. Typically these courses will take place in either the Lake District, Yorkshire Dales or the Peak District (Dark Peak) areas.

In order to attend the EOL STANDARD & ADVANCED 'Skills Refresher' Course all Leaders should meet the following criteria:

1. Be a registered BB Leader (Company, Battalion, District).
2. Already hold an EOL 'STANDARD' or 'ADVANCED' level award.

#### ***Desirable Criteria***

Candidates are encouraged to undertake formal First Aid Training, preferably by attending an 'Outdoor First Aid Course' at some point in the three years prior to assessment. They should bring copies of any relevant First Aid certificates with them to the course.

#### **Registration**

The BB Expedition & Outdoor Leadership Regulation is administered by BBHQ E&W (Felden Lodge). Those attending this Skills Refresher Course should book on the course with BBHQ E&W Office.

A BB 'Expedition & Outdoor Leadership' Handbook is now available and can be downloaded from BB Website, this also contains a 'Log Book' where any training undertaken should be signed off as well as logging all previous experience since gaining the STANDARD or ADVANCED level award.

The Course Trainers(s) encourage all Leaders attending to download and complete this and bring it along with them to the course.

## **Course Objectives**

It is widely expected that to keep 'Outdoor Qualifications' valid holders should continue to operate at or above the same level as they did at the time of assessment, maintaining both logged experience and first aid knowledge/qualification – this is known as 'Continued Personal Development' or CPD.

The Brigade's EOL regulation aims to run in line with how the Outdoor Industry 'Professional Accredited Qualifications' operate and most providers of these qualifications offer various courses for CPD such as dedicated refresher courses and various 'workshops' which focus on things such as navigation, flora/fauna and any recent changes to the awards themselves.

This is a new course which is designed to give holders of both EOL Standard or Advanced levels the opportunity to refresh various skills over a weekend, work on areas where further help/guidance might be needed and if it has been some time since you were originally assessed or if you are due to come out of certification and are falling short in logged experience over the proceeding 5 year period.

Detailed guidance notes on the EOL award scheme as well as the handbook/log book can be downloaded from the BB website via:

<http://leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/dofeddownloads.htm>

## **Course Format**

This course is almost entirely practical although there will be a classroom type session on Friday evening and chance to hold an open Q&A forum/discussion on the Sunday afternoon.

The practical sessions will have a strong emphasis on navigation and leadership through various terrain. The course will also assess the knowledge of the candidates in many other areas including, but not limited to:

1. Remit of the EOL Awards
2. Leadership skills and styles
3. Route Planning
4. Environmental Awareness
5. Emergency procedures

## Sample Course Outline:

Day 1 (Friday)	Day 2 (Saturday)	Day 3 (Sunday)
<b>Arrival (Introduction)</b>	<b>Hill Day</b>	<b>Hill or Valley</b>
	Practical 'On the Hill' sessions and exercises looking at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Navigation techniques</li> <li>• Group management.</li> <li>• Hazard Awareness</li> <li>• The Environment</li> <li>• Emergencies</li> <li>• Clothing/Equipment</li> </ul>	Opportunity for further practical sessions.  Q&A and Open Discussion Forum.  Final course debrief.
<b>Evening Session:</b> Introductions (Us, You, Course Overview, Gear Check Review of Weather Forecast. Current BB Regulations for E&OL and DofE Changes	<b>Evening Session:</b> Free / Social Time	<b>Finish by 3pm</b>

**Note: Course programme may change to suit prevailing conditions.**

## Venue Used

These courses will be based in a suitable 'Wild Country' designated area.

No 'venue' as such is necessary details of where to meet up for the practical sessions will be briefed before/during the weekend and suitable locations will be used for the theory/discussions.

We will pick routes that are appropriate for the level of EOL awards held by those attending i.e. STANDARD or ADVANCED and which meet the aspirations and objectives of group make up and of course taking into account the prevailing weather conditions. In all cases the course attendees will be required to contribute to what is covered and we will endeavour to discuss any option/choices with you so that the group is aware of our thought processes.

## Meeting Points

The base for these courses will be confirmed and a dedicated 'course programme' will be finalised of where to meet for each session – timings, locations, directions etc.

The Course Instructor/Training Team normally aim to arrive early-mid afternoon on Day1.

## What do I need to bring?

As a holder of a BB EOL STANDARD/ADVANCED level award, you should possess all necessary clothing, footwear and equipment and be fully proficient in its use. Wild Country terrain is about 'getting off the beaten track' so thought should be given to if your footwear is robust enough for instance. Essentially you should be sufficiently equipped to look after yourself and a group in the hills.

## **Accommodation / Meals**

Accommodation and meals are not included as part of the course.

A list of accommodation available in the area will be produced by the Course Trainer ahead of the course, this will include B&B's, Hotels, Camp sites and any YHA hostels or bunkhouses.

You will need a 'packed lunch' for Saturday and possibly 'Sunday'

## **Maps**

Details of what maps are needed for the course will be determined by the location/area used. This will be included as part of the final course program and information for the weekend and where possible you should use an up to date map and ideally if you have them bring different types and scales i.e. BMC, Harvey, OS 1:25 000, OS 1:50 000.

## **Course Cost & Booking Process**

The course price is set by BBHQ E&W and is payable at the time of booking.

## **Cancellation**

In the event of course cancellation by BBHQ due to us being unable to staff the course, we will either offer an alternative date(s) or make a full refund. In the event of the course cancelling by the candidate with less than 24 hours notice before the course date or for any 'no shows' then we reserve the right to retain payment for any expenses/losses incurred.

## **Pre-course Information**

Several weeks before the course, candidates will be sent out the final course programme along with a 'home paper' to complete prior to the weekend

Candidates will also be given the contact details of the Course Staff at this time so they can contact them directly with any queries.

## **Course Benefits**

Attendance at a 'EOL Skills Refresher' course will be looked on favourably by BBHQ when processing requests to renew EOL awards every 5 years and attendance at one of the these courses will also be deemed as validation that you are still operating at the level necessary to hold an EOL at the current level.

The courses are also a great opportunity to spend time away from the usual BB Company/Battalion environment and network with others in the Brigade and hopefully share fun and fellowship as well.