



Boys' Brigade (England & Wales)

Expedition & Outdoor Leadership (EOL) STANDARD to ADVANCED Conversion Course

The Boys' Brigade (England & Wales) 'Conversion' Assessment Course for holders of the Brigades Expedition & Outdoor Leadership STANDARD level to upgrade to the ADVANCED level.

All assessments are carried out by suitably qualified Assessors and are designed to give Candidates the maximum opportunity to display their skills in an environment that allows them to perform at their best. Assessment can often be a stressful process however, it should also be an ideal opportunity to learn and refine existing skills. Regardless of any result, all assessments have a strong emphasis on ongoing learning.

The Annual EOL - STANDARD to ADVANCED Conversion assessment courses take place in a suitable 'Wild Country' area as designated by the DofE, 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 to ADVANCED 'Conversion' Assessment course all Leaders should meet the following criteria:

1. Be a registered BB Leader (Company, Battalion, District).
2. Already hold an EOL 'STANDARD' level award.
3. Have logged a minimum of **10** 'Quality Hill Days' in Wild Country Areas as designated by DofE see <https://www.dofe.org/run/expeditionareas/>

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 Assessment.

Registration

The BB Expedition & Outdoor Leadership Regulation is administered by BBHQ E&W (Felden Lodge). Those attending this conversion/assessment 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 can be signed off as well as logging all previous experience since gaining the STANDARD level award.

The Course Assessor(s) encourage all Leaders attending our Assessment courses to download and complete this and bring it along to the assessment course.

Assessment Objectives

During this course we aim to cover the skills needed to be able to lead/supervise/instruct in Wild Country areas, typical of DofE Gold. This course in essence covers the additional elements of assessment at the 'Advanced' level without requiring candidates to repeat areas previously covered/assessed for 'Standard'

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

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

Course Format

The assessment is almost entirely practical although there are a couple of short theory exercises and a 'pre assessment' homework paper.

The assessment will have a strong emphasis on navigation and leadership through Wild Country/Mountainous 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. Advanced Level Route Planning
4. Environmental Awareness
5. Wild Camping
6. Emergency procedures

The assessment process takes a holistic view of a candidate's performance over the weekend. It is rare that a single error causes someone to fail or be deferred. A pass is the result based on a candidate's overall performance in all areas taking into account errors made along the way.

There are 3 possible outcomes on conclusion of the course:-

Pass – Upgraded to BB EOL Certificate at the ADVANCED level.

Deferred – Advised to further train in area(s) concerned, re-assessed on this at later date.

Fail – Consistently making errors or poor performance in multiple areas of assessment.

Sample Course Outline:

Day 1 (Friday)	Day 2 (Saturday)	Day 3 (Sunday)
Arrival (Introduction)	Hill Day	Hill or Valley
	Practical Assessment – Specifically around: Advanced Navigation – micro navigation, bearing, timing, pacing, 8 figure grid references. Hazard Awareness and perception. Leading a group in more challenging terrain Dealing with Emergencies	Further practical assessment as/if required. First Aid / Emergencies Review of homework papers and assignments, route planning exercises. Q & A and open discussion forum. Final debriefs and results.
Evening Session: Introductions (Us, You, Course Overview, Gear Check Review of Weather Forecast.	Evening Session: Night Navigation Exercise	Finish by 3pm

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 practical sessions will be briefed during the weekend and suitable locations will be used for the theory/discussions.

We will pick routes that are appropriate for the level of the assessment i.e. ADVANCED which meet the assessment objectives of the day and prevailing weather conditions. In many cases the candidates will have the opportunity to contribute to these decisions and we will endeavour to discuss any 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 Assessment Team normally aim to arrive early-mid afternoon on Day1.

What do I need to bring?

As a holder of a BB EOL STANDARD 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. As you will have been assessed on 'camping and campcraft' as part of your STANDARD level assessment, there is no requirement to camp on this course.

A list of accommodation available in the area will be produced by the Course Director ahead of the weekend, 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 this course, will be determined by the location/area used. This will be included as part of the final course programme and information for the course 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 assessment course, candidates will be sent out the final course programme along with a 'home paper' to complete prior to the weekend and also requested to complete a short 'route planning' exercise.

Candidates will also be given the contact details of the Assessor(s) at this time so they can contact them directly with any queries.

ADVANCED Level Requirements

Those booking on this course will be looking to undertake assessment at the 'Advanced' level and in addition to holding the STANDARD level are expected to fully meet the requirements to be assessed at the higher level, it is expected they will be able to use 8 figure grid references, be able to travel across long sections of remote, undulating and broken terrain 'off the beaten track' and be able to navigate to a much higher level using 'micro navigation' techniques, walking on a bearing combined with pacing (flat, uphill and downhill) and timing.

It is also expected you have a minimum of 10 Quality Days in Wild Country terrain. The ethos behind this is that if you have no experience of walking in these areas yourself, how can you expect to safely teach/lead others to do so.