

Extension to all temporary changes until 31 December 2022

We're proud of the resilience that DofE participants have demonstrated in continuing with their sectional activities, and receiving their Certificates of Achievement, during the COVID-19 pandemic. We know that this has been a challenging time for our network, and that continued periods of lockdown and tighter restrictions have put huge pressures on our DofE Leaders, participants and parents and carers.

We're hopeful that expeditions and residentials will be able to take place later this year, but we're aware that many Licensed Organisations are supporting multiple cohorts of young people, and we may face extended periods of restrictions throughout 2021.

To that end, we've extended all of the temporary changes, including young people being able to volunteer from home, adaptations to the Expedition and Residential sections, and the Certificate of Achievement, until 31 December 2022.

There are a couple of minor tweaks to the guidance which are outlined here. All of the temporary programme changes are listed below as a comprehensive summary.

The minor tweaks are:

- **As practice expeditions are not under qualifying conditions, combined (hybrid Bronze/Silver or Silver/Gold) expeditions do not require an Accredited Expedition Assessor. However, we recommend that an Assessor is present if possible.**
- **Any participant who enrolls and completes their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections before 31 December 2022 will receive a Certificate of Achievement.**

A summary of all of the temporary changes is below:

All sections

Participants can continue to change section activities more than once.

Participants can continue to progress to the next level before completing their expedition, and we're looking into how this can be supported on eDofE when a participant has incomplete Bronze and Silver levels and wishes to enrol at Gold.

Volunteering section

Participants can continue to volunteer for family members, for example by mentoring or coaching younger siblings.

Expedition section

Participants can continue to make use of the six expedition flexibilities:

1. Bronze participants who progress to Silver will be able to use their Silver practice expedition as their qualifying expedition at Bronze (2 days and 2 nights), and Silver participants who progress to Gold will be able to use their Gold practice expedition as their qualifying expedition at Silver (3 days and 2 nights). **As practice expeditions are not under qualifying conditions, combined expeditions do not require an Accredited Expedition Assessor but we recommend that an Assessor is present if possible.**

2. At Silver and Gold level, practice expeditions and qualifying expeditions can be delivered 'back to back'.
3. We've relaxed the rules around recommended environments, so participants don't have to leave their local area to complete an expedition.
4. Leaders can use motorised transport to take participants to the start point of their route and pick them up at their end point each day.
5. Teams at all Award levels are allowed to return home to sleep during their expedition.
6. Expedition Assessors for Silver and Gold levels can be known to the group.

Expeditions can also be run in restricted spaces such as school or youth group grounds to give LOs and AAPs greater in delivering expeditions whilst following the specific guidance and rules for their sector, and their own local policies and procedures. Please note that many Expedition AAPs have attended virtual training sessions on delivering expeditions in restricted spaces, and are ready to support LOs when Government guidelines allow.

Residential section

Residentials can continue to be run with a minimum of four participants.

Participants can continue to go home at night to sleep following the evening meal and any evening activities.

The residential experience can be split over two weekends if needed.

Certificate of Achievement

We want our young people to be recognised for their amazing efforts and achievements – even if the current situation means it's not possible for them to do their expedition and/or residential and therefore achieve their Award right now.

To that end, we've extended our new accolade to formally recognise their dedication and accomplishments: the DofE Certificate of Achievement. Certificates will be available to all participants who have completed their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections at all Award levels, but haven't been able to do their expedition and/or residential at Gold because of the pandemic.

Any participant who enrolls and completes their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections before 31 December 2022 will receive a Certificate of Achievement.

Participants enrolling now have more than 18 months to complete their sectional activities and receive their Certificate of Achievement. We will continue to send out Certificates of Achievement every two weeks to the email address that participants have entered on their eDofE account.