



17 June 2019

Dear Parents

re: Duke of Edinburgh's Award Bronze Canoeing Expeditions

Introduction to Canoeing Expeditions

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme at Abingdon School allows for expeditions to be completed via the waterways in an open canoe in addition to the standard walking routes. This unique opportunity allows boys to explore some of the inland waterways of the UK and also experience some gentle white water, under close supervision.

Availability of places on Canoeing Expeditions

Places on canoeing expeditions are very limited and are highly sought after, therefore boys must be willing to show commitment at an early stage.

At Bronze Award level there are only 8 places available and priority will be given to those boys who have paddled with the school Canoe Club or have previous canoeing experience. After taking all these considerations, the availability of places will then be considered on a 'first come, first served' basis. Should boys be unsuccessful in applying for the canoeing expeditions they will still have the opportunity to join the walking groups, if they so wish.

At Silver Award level there are also only 8 places available. Access to this award from Bronze level is highly sought after and unfortunately there aren't enough places available for all boys. Priority will be given to those boys who have their entire DofE Bronze Award by the end of the summer term in their 4th year (July 2020) and have shown a high degree of interest and leadership in Canoeing.

Dates

At Bronze Award level there are two compulsory expeditions and a planning day in school.

Planning Day and Kit Check

Abingdon School

Saturday 21 March 2020

Bronze Practice Expedition

River Thames, Oxfordshire

Thursday 7 to Friday 8 May 2020

Bronze Assessment Expedition

River Medway, Kent

Sunday 31 May to Monday 1 June 2020

By signing up to the Bronze Award, boys **must** take part in and complete the planning day and both expedition weekends. Failure to do so will result in them not completing the expedition section and therefore not obtaining the award at this level, unless they can find an external open award expedition to complete. It may also put the expedition numbers at risk for the remaining boys.

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Therefore, please consider if your son will be available for all three dates before applying for him to join the award.

Costs

The major costs associated with the scheme are for the joining materials and travel expenses for the expeditions, although every effort is made to keep these to a minimum.

Joining fee	£55.00
Practice expedition	£70.00 (approx.)
Assessment expedition	£95.00 (approx.)

The joining fee is payable on application and both expedition fees will be charged to the school bill at the end of the Michaelmas term.

These costs are per boy and cover items such as travel, campsite fees, river licenses, maps and safety equipment. All paddling equipment will be provided by the school Canoe Club and will include; open canoe, paddle, waterproof kit barrel, buoyancy aid, helmet, cagoule and all other associated safety equipment. The school will also provide a tent and cooking apparatus for each expedition.

Boys are expected to provide all other camping equipment and personal canoeing equipment, and guidance can be sought from school staff if needed.

Equipment

A guide to equipment and cooking for DofE Canoeing will be provided to all boys accepted on the Canoeing expeditions. This will be discussed further on the school training day; however please contact us if you require any advice on purchasing any specialist equipment.

Joining the Scheme

To join the scheme boys and parents should complete the google form link below together. It will only be accepted if it comes from a parent's email account. The form should be completed by Friday 28 June 2019. Please note that this is the same form sent by Mr Dempsey and need only be completed once.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdjzYOD-sash7g6tv0Q9L_QDSV1fDEIXHN08T6wpYp7Z_C8cA/viewform

In addition to this google form a supporting letter explaining previous canoeing experience and any relevant qualifications should be sent to Mr Johnson, via the MCR or email, by Friday 28 June 2019.

Please also indicate if your son would like to undertake the expedition by foot should their application be unsuccessful.

Boys will be informed before the Summer break if they have been successful in gaining a place or not and they are encouraged to join the School Canoe Club in the Michaelmas Term.

Yours faithfully,

Mark Johnson
Master i/c DofE Canoeing