

Countless students have achieved the Duke of Edinburgh award for countless years, on Monday the 28th of June Highschool Freshmen at BISB will embark on their first Adventurous Journey.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is a rigorous and challenging program for young people the world over. The essential tenets of the award are values treasured by our school's leadership, and teachers have continuously volunteered to spearhead the project. Duke of Edinburgh Award candidates fulfill responsibilities and tasks every week for months before participating in an Adventurous Journey, an expedition into wilderness. The Adventurous Journey is the final step in earning a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award, with every student having the opportunity to earn all three during their High School career.

While it is true that the Adventurous Journey will commence tantalisingly soon, Duke of Edinburgh Assessors Ms. Anderson-Shore and Ms. Wagner have worked around the clock to conceptualize a new Adventurous Journey that will be in accordance with safety requirements and satisfy every principle exalted by the award. What would typically be a day long excursion will be a mere four hours. Although the journey will be different, the atmosphere will be the same and the fun and competitiveness no less apparent among students. The desire to enjoy nature and collaborate has made many students very excited to take part. We spoke with a student who wasn't comfortable with their name being publicized but eager to share their thoughts.

Why did you join the Duke of Edinburgh Award challenge?

If I want to be honest it was a college thing mostly but I ended up having a lot of fun and I worked on being more organized and keeping to a schedule which helped me a lot also. I'm happy I made the choice to join.

How do you feel about the Adventurous Journey being right around the corner?

Happy and kind of anxious, I think. I thought for a while that we wouldn't be able to do anything until next year! I don't care that it's not the whole trip because I'm still excited to do stuff with friends and hopefully get the bronze award soon. I had to buy boots and some other things so I know I'm ready but I'm still anxious about it because it's so soon and I am travelling to another country right after so it will be a big thing I do before the summer.

What do you hope to gain from the experience?

Like I said I think it will be the last big thing I do with people in my class for a while so I hope it will be memorable mostly. The groups are random which is kind of exciting. I got to pick a friend but the rest of the people in your groups are picked so that you work with people other than close friends so you can talk and work with people you don't normally. I hope I can work on teamwork with new people!

Do you have experience with hiking and the outdoors?

The country I come from has hot weather so I liked playing football outside with my friends. I have done sports outside before but I think I've only hiked once when I was on a school trip a few years ago. Because I don't have experience with doing hikes trying to keep up with my friends will maybe be hard but really fun. If I like it a lot I will see if I can go camping or hike over the summer!

Will you go for the silver award next year?

Yeah I think so. I liked that I had a schedule for my tasks which helped me get more organized which is something I needed to get better with in general. I had fun with the activities I was logging and I think I learned a lot. A bunch of friends did it also which is very encouraging. I definitely will sign up again when I'm in year 11 after the summer break and I really want to get the silver award and gold. .

We would like to thank the Year 10 student for accepting our invitation to do an interview and give us insights.