



Proud Specialists of
Duke of Edinburgh
Award Expeditions

LET THE
JOURNEY
COMMENCE

www.venture-out.co.uk



THE DUKE OF
EDINBURGH'S AWARD



START YOUR PERSONAL JOURNEY WITH US...

Choose **Venture Out** Expeditions
for your DofE programme:

*Vast experience in running
DofE expeditions* ✓

*Flexibility - we support as
much or as little of the
programme as you want us to* ✓

*Highest standards with
competitive pricing* ✓

*Well qualified, highly
proficient instructors* ✓

*Modern, high performing
outdoor equipment* ✓

*Can handle the smallest or
largest groups 14 to 140.* ✓

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When I first founded **Venture Out** Expeditions, I had already spent 20 years school teaching, undertaking numerous outdoor sports qualifications, coaching others and carrying out my own walking and kayaking expeditions throughout the world.

Challenges within the Great Outdoors continue to inspire me - almost as much as helping others during the first steps of their own journeys. It's taken years to fine tune the ability to help others appreciate and embrace the transformative benefits of the great outdoors.

The physical and mental challenges experienced during our Duke of Edinburgh expeditions are varied and help a young person develop, personal responsibility, interpersonal skills and self esteem. All important attributes as they journey towards adulthood.

My staff share my passion for helping the next generation of outdoor enthusiasts start their own journey. We can appreciate the challenges faced by participants on our expeditions and so bring empathy and enthusiasm to our teaching. We have an educational, nurturing ethos that is infused into everything we do.

It is our hope that participants go on to have their own lifelong, fulfilling relationship with the countryside - or at least discover that they are physically and mentally capable of a lot more than they realised.

We'd love to hear about the activities you are planning and any support you might need. Do call us for a chat and some friendly advice at any time - Let us help you with your journey...

- MANDY HICKMAN,
DofE MANAGER AT ALTRINCHAM
GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

It has been a pleasure working with Kevin Beattie. As an ex-teacher himself, he thoroughly understands the constraint upon schools' time and resources and has produced a bespoke package for our students which perfectly suits our requirements.



*Open, friendly
communication is key to
our service and we'd love
to hear about the activities
you are planning. Do call
us for a chat and some
friendly advice at any
time - we love talking
about the outdoors almost
as much as being there.*

Best regards



Technical Director and
Programmes Manager

Venture Out

STEPPING UP TO THE CHALLENGE

STEPPING UP TO THE CHALLENGE

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is a personal development award, and the Expedition section focuses on developing teamwork skills, independence and personal responsibility - through a teamwork challenge. During the Qualifying Expedition a participant must rely on themselves and their team for support and motivation whilst travelling, navigating, camping, cooking and dealing with physical exertion. It is normal for teams to get lost, experience bad weather, have medical issues. It is also normal for the days to feel long and hard whilst travelling through remote areas. Beforehand, teams must plan the routes, undertake physical and technical training, then buy and pack appropriate equipment and food. All with minimal adult assistance.

 **BRONZE:**
6 HOURS
10-12 Km
through fields & farm lands

 **SILVER:**
7 HOURS
12-14 Km
some uplands and hills

 **GOLD:**
8 HOURS
13-18 Km
remote valleys, hills and mountains

Time and distance covered PER DAY.



Detailed planning by our school's DofE Manager made sure every aspect of the expedition and the pre-trip planning ran like clockwork. As our school's DofE leader, that let me relax and enjoy myself too.

*- GARETH JOHNSON,
CALDERSTONES SCHOOL*

WHY USE AN APPROVED ACTIVITY PROVIDER?

SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT

Before a team sets off by themselves on an assessed expedition, it is imperative that participants are properly equipped, attend quality training events run by professional staff (qualifications and experience) and that supervision and safety systems are in place. Providing this for numerous teams would be a huge responsibility for a school as they usually lack the staff, experience, technical background, equipment and insurance required. It is much safer for all to contract in specialist providers with technical expertise.

Venture Out Expeditions is an Approved Activity Provider for The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. This ensures that our programmes will provide the participants with the best possible staff, training, equipment and safety supervision systems.

BUILDING THE DofE EXPEDITION THAT FITS YOUR NEEDS EXACTLY

We provide all aspects of a DofE expedition programme, from managing the initial planning and expedition training through to running the practice and qualifying expeditions themselves. We take care of everything from advising parents and handling the expedition reports to DofE paperwork. This helps make the job of school

DofE manager as straightforward and stress-free as possible. And it should give parents more peace of mind.



THE venture out

PRE-EXPEDITION TRAINING

During these school-based, one-day sessions, teams attend 3 sessions: Using a map to plan their route; Basic first aid; What clothing and food to pack.

We can train teams on weekdays or at weekends, either at your own school or at other venues.

PRACTICE EXPEDITION

Each team has their own trainer who teaches them practical skills: how to navigate, camp and keep themselves safe and well-nourished in an expedition setting. The trainer also covers aspects of teamwork and personal development.

At the end of the expedition, each trainer will de-brief their team and give them an action plan that is shared with the school for follow up.

ULTIMATE PROGRAMME

QUALIFYING EXPEDITION

Accredited Expedition Assessors remotely supervise this un-accompanied expedition, meeting students along the way to monitor their progress and welfare.

Teams are debriefed at the end of the expedition and the Assessor report produced.

PRESENTATION

We supply a background research pack to each student which they can use to formulate their project and presentation.

During the training expedition, our instructors discuss ideas with students and help translate those into their final expedition aims and presentation theme. They can make their presentations to our Assessors or to the DofE manager back at school.

For more detail on exactly what each stage entails and how we can support it, see our website or call us for advice: www.venture-out.co.uk



WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE PER-PERSON PRICE?

- ✓ Admin support shared via a Google Drive folder.
- ✓ Online Participant registration form to reduce school administration.
- ✓ Highly experienced expedition trainers.
- ✓ DofE Accredited Assessor and an Assessor Report.
- ✓ Team equipment: tents, stoves, pots, fuel, maps and map cases, compasses.
- ✓ Safety equipment: Emergency shelter, emergency phone and GPS tracker.
- ✓ Camp site or hostel fees (including staff)
- ✓ Pre-expedition training package based on the DofE syllabus.
- ✓ Support booklets for participants and parents.
- ✓ All paperwork including risk assessment.
- ✓ YouTube channel.

SAMPLE EXPEDITION PACKAGES

These are standard packages that have worked well for our school clients in the past. Have a chat with us to customise these to fit your needs.



BRONZE

- One day training package (including practice expedition route planning)
- Two day/one night practice expedition
- Two day/one night qualifying expedition



SILVER

- One day training package (including practice expedition route planning)
- Three day/two night practice expedition
- Five day/four night qualifying expedition
- Three day/two night qualifying expedition



GOLD

- One day training package
- Three day/two night practice expedition
- Five day/four night qualifying expedition



WHY SHOULD YOU WORK WITH US?

Choose **Venture Out Expeditions** for your DofE programme:

- ✓ 7 years experience of providing excellent expeditions throughout the UK.
- ✓ Flexibility - we support as much or as little of the programme as you want us to.
- ✓ Highest standards with competitive pricing.
- ✓ Well qualified, highly proficient instructors.
- ✓ Modern, high performing outdoor equipment.
- ✓ Can handle the smallest or largest groups.
- ✓ Use GPS trackers and emergency phones for all events.

Educational ethos

- ✓ One trainer per team.
- ✓ One map & compass between two participants.
- ✓ Staff with an ethos of empathy and education and who work hard to inspire teams towards successful outcomes.
- ✓ Emphasis on personal development and teamwork development rather than just on expedition skills.
- ✓ Provision of support packs and videos for participants and parents.



OUR STAFF

We pride ourselves on the professionalism and experience of our instructors. All Venture Out's DofE programmes, whether Bronze or Gold, are led by qualified Summer Mountain Leaders with Enhanced DBS clearance and an Outdoor First

Aid qualification. They also tend to specialise in DofE training and have much deeper and broader skills and training than those of other providers. That makes us the perfect choice where expeditions employ travel modes like mountain biking and canoeing.



SAFETY, LICENSING AND CERTIFICATION

- ✓ AALA reg no: L11326/R1942
- ✓ Annual HSE audits to check staffing, financial status, equipment and operating procedures.
- ✓ Approved Activity Provider (AAP) for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.
- ✓ Member of the Institute for Outdoor Learning.
- ✓ British Canoeing Quality Mark.
- ✓ Use GPS tracking system on all teams on all expeditions.

BESPOKE PROGRAMME SUPPORT

Not sure you want a full programme? Want additional days or have Direct Entrants? Do you just want some extra staff and/or a Technical Advisor? We build a bespoke expedition package to exactly match your needs, doing as little or as much of the work as you want us to...

WE CAN:

- ✓ Organise expeditions for groups that you have trained.
- ✓ Provide instructors, co-ordinators or assessors to work alongside your staff.
- ✓ Provide technical advice on your expedition training programme, operating procedures, chosen routes and supervision plan.
- ✓ Train your staff to run their own in-centre training, expedition training and mexpedition assessment reports.
- ✓ Extra training days for direct entrants to silver and gold expeditions.

Did you know..?
Currently over 300,000 young people are doing their DofE in the UK each year!



WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO?

We take expeditions to all parts of the UK, from the Highlands of Scotland to the hill country of mid-Wales. For Bronze expeditions, plenty of challenges can be found relatively close to home while Silver and Gold offer the opportunity to explore further afield.

Our most popular expedition venues include the Peak District, Wales, Lancashire hills, Yorkshire and the Lake District. Just let us know your preference, we're happy to discuss your preferences.

CHOOSE OTHER MODES OF TRANSPORT

The breadth of our instructors' experience and qualifications lets us offer canoeing, paddleboarding, cycling and kayaking as alternative modes of travel for DofE expeditions. We also deliver pre-trip training in these disciplines, either at our South Manchester base or at the venue of your choice. Just contact us for a detailed quote that covers both the training and the expedition itself.



FIND OUT WHAT YOU ARE TRULY CAPABLE OF



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and bookings:

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