

GILLINGHAM DOFE 2023 - 24 Info Sheet Update Mar 2024

Dates are (Google) diarised at: <https://www.gillinghamdofe.co.uk/calendar/>

Please be aware that the Open Award Centre **is no longer** enrolling to the bronze programme. Interest in undertaking the Award has grown incredibly over the last few years which is marvellous, but this growth is not matched by the number of volunteers consistently available to give up the time needed to qualify to lead and staff the bronze training and expeditions.

Gillingham School are developing their own DofE Programme and started with Bronze in Sept. 2023 wherein the services of a DofE Expedition Approved Activity Provider (AAP) have been engaged to cover the demands of the expedition section.

The Open Award Centre will continue for Silver and Gold until the end of August 2024, when it is hoped that Gillingham School will extend delivery to these levels.

Apply to enrol: <https://www.gillinghamdofe.co.uk/apply-online/>

- Bronze: please enquire of your school.
- Silver: Yr10. Enrol Sept to end of Nov, 2023. The first mandatory meeting for 2023-24 expeditions is Saturday 13 Jan 2024 at Gillingham Scout's Community Hall in Milton on Stour.
- Gold: apply any time from **Yr11** up to 24yrs! Start at 16yrs but Exped training can take place **before 16yrs** if enrolled to the programme, BUT the first mandatory meeting for 2023-24 expeditions is Sunday 14 Jan 2024 at Gillingham Scout's Community Hall in Milton on Stour.

The dates below are required attendance 23-24 Expedition season (academic year)

If intending to do the expedition in 2023-24 please check our dates against other school, club, and family commitments. We cannot safely take people forward **without fully completing their expedition course** (i.e. attending events!) because the **remotely supervised** Finals require experience, knowledge, good teamwork, and completion of the training framework. Everyone must undergo all training, unless proven elsewhere, then a Practice and then a Final.

Arrangements for the other sections are made individually. At Silver, it's expected that all sections are started/planned by Christmas at the latest. At Gold, it's quite acceptable to take the sections steadily over two or three years or longer if needs be. There is a lot of local information and links about what you can do on our website under "sectional info". We are here to advise and support choices: mob 07917212390; email info@gillinghamdofe.co.uk.

Welcome Pack and Admin Fee. This all goes to Dorset Council to pay for the Award enrolment and DC Admin costs. Silver = £41, Gold = £51. Includes Welcome Pack, Discount Card and other shopping benefits, certificate/badge, online [eDofE](#) a/c & (life of the level) support.

Once an account is opened and/or older than 2 weeks we will have incurred that cost ourselves and therefore can't refund. However, the enrolment remains in place until 25th birthday so any aspect of the Award can be picked up later or transferred to a new school/unit.

FIRST AID For any new enrolment undertaking the expedition.

This is for silver/gold Direct entrants who have no previous First Aid training, or the training is out of date. Please apply to <https://www.ubee.org.uk/courses/dofe-award-skills-online-learn-first-aid-skills> for an online 13 week course. Pls let UBeE know it's for Exped Training, with your leader's knowledge. NB Course isn't long enough for any gold section but may also be used for a 3-month silver skills section.

Should costs seem prohibitive please talk to Mrs P (M5) or a leader in confidence. Support is available.

SILVERS £41 Welcome Pack + £119 Exped = £160 + 1st Aid if needed

Initial enrolment fee is £101 to include expedition deposits of £30 for each event (2).

Silvers are not required to attend weekly but must attend all dates below.

Directs, without Bronze, will need to discuss where/how they'll complete basic exped training.

- **Saturday 13 Jan (9 – 3.30pm) Planning for the assessed Final and some refresher training at the Milton on Stour Scout Community Hall SP8 5QD**
<https://www.stmarygillinghamscoutgroup.co.uk/Hallhire.html>
- **Tues 27 Feb Briefing for the Practice 4pm P2**
- **Fri 8 Mar, leaving 5pm, to Sun 10 Mar Practice) £54 = £24 to pay, £30 deposit**
- **Tues 30 April Kit Check and Briefing for Final 4pm P2**
- **Sat 4 May to Mon 6 May (BH) Assessed Final £65 = £35 to pay, £30 deposit**
- **Tues 24 June 4pm P2 Team Expedition Presentation. Mandatory to completing the section.**

GOLDS £51 Welcome Pack, plus Trg and Prac £110, Final £119 = £280 + 1st Aid if needed

Initial enrolment £51; expedition payments are due a fortnight prior to book your place (venues and vehicles!)

Golds are not required to attend weekly but **those doing 2024 Expeditions must attend 14 Jan 2024**

Directs, without a previous level, will need to discuss where/how they'll complete basic exped training.

- **Exped Training can be completed before 16yrs old. Practice and Final must be after 16th birthday**
- **Attend to suit studies eg over a couple of years, but you must attend planning for your Final.**
- **You can do alternative styles of expedition with an outside provider: cycle, ride, sail, kayak see:**
 - **for alternatives and Residentials GO TO <https://www.dofe.org/opportunity-finder/>**

3 stages to be completed – Training & Practice, & Final. School clash? ask for “Authorised Absence”.

- **Sunday 14 Jan (9 – 3.30pm) Planning for the assessed Final and some refresher training at the Milton on Stour Scout Community Hall SP8 5QD.**
<https://www.stmarygillinghamscoutgroup.co.uk/Hallhire.html>
- **Tues 6 Feb Briefing for the February Training and Practice 4pm P2**
- **Mon 12 Feb to Thurs 15 Feb – option 1, Training and Practice £110**
- **Tues 26 Mar Briefing for the April Training and Practice 4pm P2**
- **Thurs 11 April to Sun 14 April – option 2, Training and Practice £110**
- **Fri 19 July to Tues 23 July – Final Assessment for all. £119**
- **Date/Time for Exped Presentation tbc. This is mandatory to completing the section.**

Event costs, as above, cover room and store hire, admin (printing, copying, and postage), specialist unit insurance, charity audit, leader training and accreditation, training resources for participants, camping/bunkhouse fees, expedition consumables, transport hire, fuel, equipment repair and replacement, (finals) assessors etc.

Fundraising is undertaken to help reduce your costs. Some personal equipment can be borrowed. We supply all team equipment – tents, stoves, fuel, maps compasses, shelters etc.....

Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections are usually arranged between the Participant's family and whoever they are doing the activity with. It's very important to engage with eDofE (online activity record) and very important to always check out ideas for the DofE sections and to have them approved beforehand on eDofE. It's not always as simple as it sounds!! Costly mistakes can be made – on the other hand we are full of bright ideas as to what can count, where and how!

Where others are working with your child you are strongly advised to check out insurance cover and to be confident regarding child protection. Only DC DofE **leader led** activities are insured for Public Liability risk by DC (Dorset Council). The Award provides minimal personal accident cover

<https://www.dofe.org/run/insurance/>

ADULT VOLUNTEERING – if you or someone you know is interested in helping the Award group, there's info on how/where to get involved here: <https://www.gillinghamdofe.co.uk/adult-volunteers/> We would not expect you to work with your child 😊

DofE at Gillingham: [Gillingham DofE](#)

Instagram: www.instagram.com/gillingham_dofe_oac

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/dofegilloac/>

mobile: 07908954105

BACs – (Lloyds - Gillingham DofE OAC) Bank Ref: Surname & for?. sortcode 30.98.97 a/c 47830260