

DofE - Volunteering



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General

This factsheet aims to explain the requirements of the volunteering section that are available to those undertaking a DofE programme at whichever level. In particular, it outlines the requirements for young people wishing to assist with a Scouting Section for this section.

Minimum Time Requirements

The minimum time requirements are:

Bronze – 3 months involvement *

Silver – 6 months involvement

Gold – 12 months involvement

* at Bronze, participants may choose to add the additional three months to this Section.

For direct entrants (those starting at Silver or Gold level without achieving the previous level), who select the volunteering section to undertake their additional time requirements, six months must be added to the Silver and Gold Award requirements.

Involvement is to be measured in full months with an expectation of an average of at least one hour per week. There is flexibility as to how the hours are deployed within the total time span as long as there is regular involvement throughout.

The Process

The period of involvement should start with an initial briefing confirming the nature of the volunteering, how training is to be undertaken and practical involvement.

Some form of training should be provided which can consist of further briefing, attendance on a course or gaining a volunteering-related qualification.

When the practical volunteering is complete, which must be related to the training, a final review should take place prior to the record book being completed. It is beneficial for participants to keep their own records of volunteering undertaken detailing the types of volunteering, dates, hours of involvement, etc. A mentor or supervisor should meet with the participant as appropriate to review progress and give guidance/support where needed.

Volunteering Options

This section is focused on the participant volunteering their time to the benefit of the community. Suggestions can be found on the DofE website - <http://www.dofe.org/volunteering>

Volunteering with The Scout Association

There are a range of options for young people wishing to undertake their volunteering section with The Scout Association.

For young people **under 18**, there are three options available:

become an Explorer Scout and a member of a Young Leaders Unit. Training and support will then be provided by the Young Leaders Unit whilst the volunteering is undertaken.

be a member of the Senior Section within Girlguiding UK and assist with a Beaver Scout Colony, Cub Scout Pack or Scout Troop for a fixed period of time. Training and support will be offered by the Section Leader and by Girlguiding UK.

be enrolled with The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, and undertake volunteering with a Beaver Scout Colony, Cub Scout Pack or Scout Troop for a

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fixed period of time. Training should be offered by the Young Leaders Unit. Support should be offered by the Section Leader and by the participant's Operating Authority.

Young people who are not members of The Scout Association may undertake their volunteering section within Scouting for the period required, throughout this period they will be insured and may operate as if they were members.

For young adults **over 18**, there are various options available, for example, Section Leadership, Skills Instructor, Section Assistant, Administrator or Adviser. Training for these roles will be offered by the County /Area or District as appropriate. Non members must undergo a personal enquiry prior to starting their volunteering section within Scouting.

Training Requirements

Whilst undertaking the volunteering section of the DofE it is mandatory to undertake appropriate training. All participants under 18 must complete module A of the Young Leader Scheme, and an additional 2 hours of training at each level of the DofE programme. All participants over 18 must complete the Getting Started modules of the Adult Training Scheme and an additional 2 hours of training at each level of the DofE programme. The additional training needs to be appropriate to the individual and their role, this may be Young Leader modules, modules from the adult training scheme, first aid or activity training, or anything else agreed prior to the start.

Assessment

The person delivering the training should sign off the training section in the DofE Record Book whilst the overall section should be signed off by a Scout Leader within the Section.

Further Information

For more detailed information it is important that you consult the DofE Handbook and the DofE website. If you do not have a copy, talk to your District or County Adviser (England) or Country Office (Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland) before undertaking the volunteering section of the DofE.

More information on the Young Leaders Scheme can be obtained from District Explorer Scout Commissioners. The resource 'Young Leaders Essentials' can be purchased from the Scout Information Centre and accompanying information can be found at www.scoutbase.org.uk.

More information on the Adult Training Scheme can be obtained from County or Local Training Managers. The resource 'The Scout Association's Adult Training Scheme: An introduction to adult training and learning' can be purchased from the Scout Information Centre along with many other publications relating to the Adult Training Scheme.

Publications Cross Reference

DofE Handbook, Sixth Edition (Duke of Edinburgh's Award, 2008)

<http://www.DofE.org/>

www.scouts.org.uk/dofe