



13 September 2025

Dear Leaders, Explorers & Parents and Network member.

There has been sufficient interest for the GLSW [Greater London South-West] DofE [Duke of Edinburgh] Support Team to begin running expedition training for Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh expeditions for 2025/26. Please read the following carefully.

This opportunity is open to all explorer scouts either new to DofE or who had previously attended sessions earlier in the year.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme have refreshed their expedition requirements from November 2023, the announcement is here <https://www.dofe.org/thelatest/introducing-our-refreshed-expedition-requirements/>

So, what is the Duke of Edinburgh Award? <https://www.dofe.org/do/basicinformation/>

Here is a summary of the training, how it works and when it is;

There will be several weekends and some online team sessions; where we will go over the expedition skills required from the DofE training framework e.g. Introductions, Safety, Food, Some Route Planning, Project Planning, Navigation, Kit checks, Route Planning and Camp Craft. <https://www.dofe.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Expedition-Training-Framework.pdf>

All dates are **mandatory** attendance unless you have let me know beforehand. [Jon Parker | dofe.expeditions@glswscouts.org.uk]

Some weekends like the Residential Expedition Skills weekends 06/08th February 2026 or 06/08th March 2026, the training/practice weekend on 10/12th April 2026 and the qualifying expedition weekends 27/28th June 26 (Bronze) & 29/31st Aug 26 (silver) are **mandatory** for award completion. If you are however unable to attend, please let me know **ASAP**. [Jon Parker | dofe.expeditions@glswscouts.org.uk] So alternatives can be worked out.

Practice and qualifying expeditions will be delivered under current DofE guidance.

All training, and expedition locations (both training, practice and qualifying) will be local this means parents will need to deliver and collect participants. As minibuses will only be used as emergency and safety vehicles.



We will aim to also hold for Silver an Outdoor First Aid qualification, which will be outdoor orientated, is similar to the Adult version of the certificate and will qualify the explorers to Stage 4 First Aid &/or Module K, of the Young Leader Belt.

Price for the expeditions:

Prices are estimated to be £125 for the Bronze training and qualifying expeditions and £175 for the Silver practice and qualifying expeditions. There is no charge for the training itself.

Key Dates:

GLSW - ALL	Wed	24-Sep-25	Online Information Evenings: (Meeting ID: 311 853 635 989 0 Passcode: Nf7p659Z)
GLSW - ALL	Wed	15-Oct-25	Online Information Evenings: (Meeting ID: 311 853 635 989 0 Passcode: Nf7p659Z)
GLSW - ALL	Wed	12-Nov-25	Online Information Evenings: (Meeting ID: 311 853 635 989 0 Passcode: Nf7p659Z)
GLSW - ALL	Wed	17-Dec-25	Online Information Evenings: (Meeting ID: 311 853 635 989 0 Passcode: Nf7p659Z)
GLSW - ALL	Wed	31-Dec-25	Deadline to sign up for Bronze, Silver & Gold (All Options)
GLSW - B&S	Sat	10-Jan-26	13:00 Introduction to DofE (Meeting ID: 382 676 429 458 Passcode: 7pN2cd2p)
GLSW - B&S	Sat/Sun	17/18-Jan-26	eDofE Introduction (½ day AM/PM - Sat and/or Sunday). Online, (Meeting ID: 382 676 429 458 Passcode: 7pN2cd2p)
GLSW - S&G	Sat/Sun	24/25-Jan-26	One day first aid outdoor certificate: (Location TBC [but more than likely GOLD: 21st Purley HQ with SILVER: 8th Cheam HQ] 1 day at each location
GLSW - B&S	Sat	31-Jan-26	2nd Deadline to sign up for Bronze & Silver (Walking Only)
GLSW - B&S	Fri/Sun	06/08-Feb-26	Bronze & Silver Expedition Skills Weekend (Residential) - Location: TBC (Likely Birchmere)
GLSW - B&S	Fri/Sun	06/08-Mar-26	Bronze & Silver Expedition Skills Weekend (Residential) - Location: TBC (Likely Birchmere)
GLSW - Gold	Fri/Sun	13/15 Mar-26	Dartmoor Training Camp
GLSW - B&S	Sat/Sun	21/22-Mar-26	Route Planning for training/practice (all day): Location 8th Cheam HQ
GLSW - B&S	Sunday	29-Mar-26	Navigation Day - Wimbledon Common
GLSW - Gold	Sun/Fri	29-Mar to 03-Apr-26	Practice - North Wales
GLSW - Silver	Fri/Sun	10/12-Apr-26	Silver Practice Expedition: Box Hill Area



GLSW - Bronze	Fri/Sun	10/12-Apr-26	Bronze Training Expedition: Box Hill Area	
GLSW - Bronze	Sat/Sun	13/14-June-26	Route Planning for qualifying expeditions (all day) Location 8th Cheam HQ	
GLSW - Bronze	Sat/Sun	27/28-June-26	Bronze Qualifying Expedition (Ashdown Forest)	
GLSW - Silver	Sat/Sun	04/05-Jul-26	Route Planning for qualifying expeditions (all day) Location: TBC (Hopefully 8th Cheam)	
GLSW - Gold	Sun/Sat	23/29-Aug-26	Qualifying (Location:TBC)	
GLSW - Silver	Sat/Mon	29/31-Aug-26	Silver Qualifying Expedition (South Downs)	
GLSW - G&S	Sat	03-Oct-26	Gold & Silver Expedition Aim Presentation	

All Dates and information are on: <https://glswscouts.org.uk/dofe/>



Event Descriptions:

Online Information Evenings: Are just that, for all interested parents & explorers to learn about the DofE as a whole and what GLSW DofE Support team and District DofE Leads offer.

Introduction to DofE & eDofE Introduction: Both online sessions, both are introductions to 2 different areas of the award, Intro to DofE is aimed more at new entrants as well as existing participants that may have done it previously with schools, or us in GLSW, or within their own unit. As we go over how we do it in GLSW as a whole and the standard we expect from the participants.

eDofE Introduction is a meeting to login and discuss how the eDofE system works, what it is used for and how to use it. Again, aimed at new DofE participants but previous participants are encouraged to join as we will again set out the standard required and their (the participants) responsibilities in eDofE.

Outdoor First Aid (For Silver & Gold only): Is just that an Outdoor First Aid qualification equivalent to Stage 4 Emergency Aid and Module K.

Bronze & Silver Expedition Skills Weekends: There will be two and you must attend one. We learnt from season that these are a needed weekend, but availability was an issue, so we do it twice to help 😊

On these weekends we will cover; Safety (Risk Assessing), Food (Menu Planning & Cooking), Some Route Planning, Project Planning, Navigation, Kit checks, Route Planning and Camp Craft. Either as a refresher for some of the older participants or an introduction & learning for the new participants. These are Expedition Skills for the expeditions, nothing to do with the Skills Section of the award.

Route Planning Days: These are for the route planning for the training, practice & qualifying expeditions where the team will get together and plan their teams' routes and complete all the plans. Leaders will be onsite and available to assist and review routes as needed.

Expedition Weekends: Silver Practice, Bronze & Silver Qualifying are mandatory for the award, so attendance is mandatory for these, where the participants will complete an assessed expedition, unsupported and unsupervised (they will be monitored, and we will check on them 😊)

Training Expedition for Bronze will be a Friday night start, with an expedition on Saturday and some route planning on the Sunday.



Information for Leaders:

During the season (2025/26), Explores and/or Network may well come to you to borrow kit, please help them as much as you can and let your District DofE Lead know of any issues,

Also, if you do have explorers participating in our expeditions, it would be greatly appreciated if you could either mentor your Explorer and/or offer some assistance during the training and

Dates are all on the GLSW DofE Website here: <https://glswscouts.org.uk/dofe/dofe-expeditions/> please distribute amongst all your groups, leaders and network 😊

Please also remember that it is Year 9 they can start however if a Scout is 13½, linking and volunteering at a lower section, they could be eligible to start DofE, please get them to speak with their District DofE Lead.

We are also opening this year's expeditions up to Explorers & Network not doing DofE but want to get their top awards (Platinum & Diamond or even KSA). If you have anyone that fits into that scenario, please let me know the explorer(s) & parent(s) contact info and I will reach out to them with the necessary information to sign up for the expeditions. The training and expeditions are the same so we can intermix or even have wholly separate teams for them if there are enough 😊



How do I become involved?

There are 3 minimum requirements:

1. **Be an active member** of the Scout Association or Girl Guides Association.
2. To participate in the GLSW DofE Support Team expeditions & training you must be **registered for the DofE award**. If you would like to take part and are not already, please enrol for Bronze or Silver award using the following instructions.

<https://glswscouts.org.uk/dofe/dofe-enrolment/>

If you are not a member of GLSW County, then you need to enrol for the award with your own county, or school, or Girl Guide/Ranger unit.

This may take some time to be processed but once complete you should receive a welcome email with information to login to your eDofE portal which you will use to track the award.

3. **To express an interest** in the GLSW DofE Support Team Expedition & training, this is now included in the enrolment at point (2).
4. If you are NOT doing your DofE award but are aiming for the Top Awards, then email me Jon Parker | dofe.expeditions@glswscouts.org.uk

Then discuss with your unit leader on how they can support you and your fellow explorers/participants.

If you have any questions, please get in touch.

Many thanks,

Sent on behalf of the GLSW DofE Support Team by;

Jon Parker | dofe.expeditions@glswscouts.org.uk

DofE Expedition Assessor [NOA64588A] | DofE Expedition Supervisor

GLSW DofE Expedition Co-Ordinator | <https://glswscouts.org.uk/dofe/>