

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD – Dorset Council

Additional Expedition Staffing Guidance to Aug 31, 2024

When on expedition you must ensure that you or your staff have the necessary qualifications. This means that, as well as a valid First Aid qualification, *Lead Supervisors must have an accredited walking accreditation as in the table below and have completed the DofE Expedition Assessor and Supervisor Pathway as at <https://www.dofe.org/run/training/>

The table below outlines the qualifications required by Dorset Council to take groups of young people on walking expeditions (these being the most common). Other types of adventure or expedition, for example sailing, canoeing or horse riding, will require qualifications of a different type and are to be advised on a case-by-case basis due to the variety in mode and environment. Please contact the County DofE Manager, (07917 212390, dofe@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

You should aim to have a balance of male and female staff. This is mandatory for non-school Centres licensed under Dorset Council when going on expeditions involving mixed sex groups of young people.

All your staff must be cleared to work with young people. This is now done through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). Keep in mind that it can take some time for an individual to be cleared by this organisation and until such time as formal notification of clearance has been received, it is unlikely that the individual will be allowed to commence work at your Centre. It is now possible for individuals to sign up for the DBS online update service – but note the time limit from certificate issue!

<https://www.gov.uk/dbs-update-service>

Qualification	Notes
Walking	
SWMLTS Coastal & Countryside Leader Award (with Camping Endorsement for overnight camps)	Suitable for leading Bronze (and Silver with appropriate experience) Expeditions in rural non-moorland countryside.
Basic Expedition Leader (BEL) now known as L3 Lowland Leadership (Sports Ldr)	Suitable for leading Bronze and Silver Expeditions in rural and lowland countryside.
SWMLTS Summer Moorland Leader (with Camping Endorsement for overnight camps)	Suitable for leading Silver and Gold Expeditions in moorland areas of the Southwest (including the parts of the Brecon Beacons below 600m) in summer conditions.
Hill and Moorland Leader Formerly: Walking Group Leader (WGL).	Suitable for all walking expeditions in the UK in summer conditions except those in wild country above 600m. NB. Must include an additional module on remote camping.
Mountain Leader Summer (ML)	Suitable for all walking expeditions in wild country in the UK in summer conditions.
DofE Expedition Supervisors Pathway	*ALL Expedition Lead Supervisors must have completed the Expedition Assessor and Supervisor training as at https://www.dofe.org/run/training/

First Aid

All the above qualifications are only valid if supported by a current and suitable First Aid qualification.

Other than First Aid courses delivered by Dorset Council or St Johns Ambulance, all FA courses must be pre-approved by DC H&S team. Courses must be **at least sixteen hours** of instruction and cover basic life support, emergency aid and include an element of assessment.

Renewal, after 3 years, has to be 16 hours again.

It is recommended that leader's attend a First Aid Course which is focused on work in the outdoors and remote areas. The full 3 day First Aid at Work is acceptable but has to be renewed in full every 3 years.

Assessors

ALL DofE Expedition Assessors must be nationally accredited through the Expedition Assessor Accreditation Scheme and be in possession of a valid ID Card and Accreditation Number.

Assessors assessing Dorset Council teams must be registered with DC, unless they are AAP Assessors contracted via the AAP.

Re Accreditation has to be undergone every five years

Route to accreditation: <https://www.dofe.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Route-to-Accreditation-January-2021-1.pdf>