Addendum

Changes to the Expedition section

Please note that in October 2023, we'll be making several changes to the Expedition section. These impact some of the guidance given in this book, particularly chapters 2, 5, 10 and 12.

EXPEDITION REQUIREMENTS/20 CONDITIONS

The '20 Conditions' have been replaced by the Expedition Requirements. Many of the requirements are the same as the previous conditions, but they have been refreshed to highlight the parameters of an expedition, and requirements that have an element of choice.

RECOMMENDED ENVIRONMENTS

Participants no longer need to travel to Wild Country for Gold expeditions as there are no longer defined terrains for each award level. Instead, the environment chosen must become progressively more challenging through the award levels. Environments could include rural, urban, or restricted spaces and should be an appropriate challenge for the participants taking part.

EXPEDITION ASSESSORS

The restrictions preventing Expedition Assessors from being known to groups or being involved in training at certain levels have all been removed.

REASONABLE GAP

The requirement to have at least several weeks to separate the final practice from the qualifying expedition has been removed. DofE Leaders and participants can decide on the gap between practice and qualifying expeditions. This may vary due to considerations such as age, Award level and mode of travel.

ACCOMMODATION

Leaders can allow participants to return home to sleep to enable young people to take part who previously would not have been able to access an expedition.

REMOVAL OF VARIATION PROCESS

The DofE variation process has been removed. DofE Leaders - along with the support of their Operations Officer and other expedition staff - can decide on what is appropriate for their young people by speaking with them about the required outcomes of the section and how they can best be achieved.

MOTORISED TRANSPORT

Leaders can use motorised transport on expedition when required due to safety or access reasons. This could allow, for example, for participants to journey on rivers or coastlines where there aren't campsites on the banks, or to use campsites that are close to busy roads without easy walking access.

TEAM GOAL

Expedition 'aim' has been replaced with 'team goal'. This provides consistency in our terminology across the Award and emphasises the collective nature of the Expedition section, where the goal should be developed and completed as a team.

For more information about these changes, visit: DofE.org/running-expeditions