



# Guide for Silver Award Participants

A note from the Founder of the Award,  
His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh KG KT:

Buckingham Palace



The qualifications for a Silver Award  
are more demanding than those  
required for the Bronze, but that  
means that your sense of achievement  
when you have completed it will be  
that much greater.



# Welcome to your Award challenge

As you may have discovered at Bronze level, taking part in the Award isn't easy. It requires commitment over time – but after all your time and effort you will have achieved something special of which you can be very proud.

As an Award participant you will have the chance to:

- Design your own Award programme
- Set your own goals and record your progress
- Make a positive impact on the lives of others through community service
- Learn valuable practical and social skills for career development
- Take up the challenge of an adventurous journey
- Connect with other Award participants at home and abroad

You can continue with activities you're already taking part in, such as sports or volunteering, and count these towards achieving your Award, or your Award could be an opportunity to try something new and develop a passion for something different.

# How it all works

## Set your own programme.

You can start your Silver Award as soon as you've completed your Bronze, or from the age of 15 if you are doing an Award for the first time. Create your own programme by choosing an activity in each of the first three sections of the Award listed below and doing each one for a minimum of one hour a week, for a minimum of six months. You'll also need to complete an Adventurous Journey for three days and two nights.

### Service

Challenge yourself to be a responsible, caring member of the community. See pages 6–7



### Physical Recreation

Challenge yourself to improve your, health, fitness and performance. See pages 8–9



### Skills

Challenge yourself to improve your skills and widen your interests. See pages 10–11



### Adventurous Journey

Challenge yourself to journey and explore with your eyes open. See pages 12–13



If you've already completed your Bronze Award, you can start a new activity or develop your skills further in activities you have already been doing.

# The sections

The following pages give you some examples of activities you could choose to do in each section.

Remember that these are only suggestions to get you started ... use them to help you think about what interests you'd like to develop, explore or re-visit. If you are finding it hard to choose, your Award Leader can help.



# Service



Through the Service section, you get to volunteer in your community and see how your efforts can make a positive difference to the lives of others.

You'll improve your skills in areas such as team work and communication, building self-confidence as a result.



"Through the Award, I came to understand the meaning of giving back to the society. The Award has improved my commitment to youth development and engagement skills and enhanced my spirit of volunteerism."

Emmanuel Odoi Laryea,  
Ghana

## Example ideas

Here's a list of some Service ideas that you could do or use as a starting point to create a programme of your own.

### People in the community

- Visit people in need, such as elderly or disabled people, on a regular basis, to provide assistance with shopping, gardening or other domestic tasks, or simply keep them company
- Volunteer in hospitals and care centres
- Visit prisons or detention centres under the auspices of the proper authorities
- Help with a local community radio, newspaper or blog
- Coach or manage a sports team
- Do a first-aid course and then make your skills available to benefit the local community, e.g. be a first-aider at football matches or dance competitions

### Youth work

- Act in a leadership role in a youth club or uniformed youth organisation
- Assist with teaching primary school children

### Community education and health education

- Work with experienced people to educate the local community on important issues such as primary health care, immunisation campaigns, drug or alcohol awareness education
- Teach someone to read or write

### Environmental service

- Take part in a conservation project such as clearing wasteland, cleaning a river, or caring for threatened wildlife or trees
- Care for a public or school garden
- Encourage recycling
- Care for animals
- Work in a clean-up campaign
- Promote environmental sustainability

### Charity work

- Fundraise for a charity
- Create or maintain a charity website or newsletter

### Emergency services

- Help an emergency service team, such as the fire service, surf life-saving, coastguard, police, mountain rescue or Civil Defence

# Physical Recreation



The Physical Recreation section of the Award encourages you to improve your health and fitness, whatever your starting point.

You could choose to do a team sport, solo sport or any healthy activity. It could be something you already do regularly, have tried before or something completely new to you. You'll build valuable team-skills and self-esteem — all while having great fun!



Photo credit: Glenn McCreath

“Being a part of this Award family has made me feel like somebody. It has changed my perspective on life and showed me how to face and overcome challenges.”

Jacquetta Lightbourne,  
Bahamas



## Example ideas

Here's a list of some Physical Recreation ideas that you could do or use as a starting point to create a programme of your own.

<b>Ball sports</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rugby</li><li>• Soccer</li><li>• Netball</li><li>• Volleyball</li><li>• Basketball</li><li>• Handball</li><li>• Cricket</li><li>• Baseball</li><li>• Softball</li><li>• Hockey</li><li>• Tennis</li><li>• Squash</li><li>• Table-tennis</li><li>• Futsal</li></ul>	<b>Water sports</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Canoeing</li><li>• Kayaking</li><li>• Swimming</li><li>• Water polo</li><li>• Sailing</li><li>• Surfing</li><li>• Windsurfing</li><li>• Kite boarding</li><li>• Water skiing</li><li>• Diving</li><li>• Synchronised swimming</li><li>• Rowing</li><li>• Paddleboarding</li></ul>	<b>Fitness activities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Aerobics</li><li>• Running</li><li>• Skipping</li><li>• Walking</li><li>• Weight training</li></ul>
<b>Athletics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Running</li><li>• Jumping (high or long)</li><li>• Throwing (hammer, javelin, shot put)</li><li>• Biathlon, triathlon, heptathlon or decathlon</li></ul>	<b>Martial arts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Karate</li><li>• Aikido</li><li>• Judo</li><li>• Kickboxing</li><li>• Boxing</li><li>• Tae kwon do</li><li>• Kung fu</li><li>• Fencing</li><li>• Kendo</li></ul>	<b>Adventure sports</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rock climbing</li><li>• Mountaineering</li><li>• Parachuting</li><li>• Caving and pot holing</li><li>• Hang-gliding</li><li>• Paragliding</li><li>• Kite surfing</li></ul>
<b>Winter sports</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Skiing</li><li>• Snowboarding</li><li>• Luge</li><li>• Ice skating</li><li>• Ice hockey</li><li>• Curling</li></ul>	<b>Animal sports</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Horse riding</li><li>• Polo</li></ul>	<b>Miscellaneous</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dancing</li><li>• Cycling</li><li>• Gymnastics</li><li>• Weightlifting</li><li>• Trampolineing</li><li>• Wrestling</li><li>• Roller skating</li><li>• Skateboarding</li><li>• BMX</li><li>• Orienteering</li><li>• Badminton</li><li>• Ultimate Frisbee</li></ul>

# Skills



Through the Skills section you can develop your personal interests, and practical and social skills.

You could choose to improve on an existing skill or try something new. It's all about having a go, learning something and getting better at it, giving yourself a sense of achievement and well-being. Colleges, universities and employers like to see that you have life skills too!



“It has been the best thing I have ever done because not only have I had so many new, exciting experiences but also I have made a lot of friends and I have learnt new skills.”

Frederik Ahlefeldt  
Laurvig Lehn, Denmark

## Example ideas

Here's a list of some Skills section ideas that you could do or use as a starting point to create a programme of your own.

<b>Music</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Play an instrument</li><li>• Learn musical theory</li><li>• Sing</li><li>• Manage a music event</li></ul>	<b>Nature and the environment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Agriculture</li><li>• Aquarium keeping</li><li>• Astronomy</li><li>• Bee keeping</li><li>• Bird watching</li><li>• Conservation</li><li>• Dog training and handling</li><li>• Fishing</li><li>• Forestry</li><li>• Gardening</li><li>• Horticulture</li><li>• Animal care and handling</li></ul>	<b>Games</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Billiards, snooker or pool</li><li>• Card games</li><li>• Chess</li><li>• Draughts</li><li>• Darts</li><li>• Backgammon</li><li>• Other table games</li></ul>
<b>Sports related</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Officiate for a sport</li><li>• Umpire or referee a sport</li><li>• Sports equipment maintenance</li><li>• Sports ground maintenance</li></ul>		<b>Life skills</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Business management</li><li>• Financial literacy</li><li>• Entrepreneurship</li><li>• Health awareness</li></ul>
<b>Arts and crafts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ceramics</li><li>• Clay modelling</li><li>• Embroidery</li><li>• Dressmaking</li><li>• Glass painting</li><li>• Jewellery making</li><li>• Calligraphy</li><li>• Drawing</li><li>• History of art</li><li>• Painting</li><li>• Photography</li><li>• Sculpture</li><li>• Graphic design</li></ul>	<b>Communication</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Film and video making</li><li>• Film studies</li><li>• Sign language</li><li>• Braille</li><li>• Foreign languages</li><li>• Newsletter and magazine production</li><li>• Reading</li><li>• Writing</li><li>• Presentation skills</li><li>• Public speaking and debating</li><li>• Digital media</li><li>• Journalism</li><li>• Information technology</li><li>• Website development</li></ul>	<b>Technical and vocational skills</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Accounting</li><li>• Hairdressing</li><li>• Vehicle maintenance</li><li>• Engineering</li><li>• Fashion</li><li>• Furniture making</li><li>• Furniture restoration</li><li>• Metal work</li><li>• Tailoring</li><li>• Carpentry</li><li>• Cookery</li></ul>
		<b>Performance skills</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Drama and theatre skills</li><li>• Circus skills</li><li>• Puppetry</li></ul>

# Adventurous Journey



For the Adventurous Journey section you'll need a sense of adventure and discovery as you go on a team journey, expedition or exploration.

You'll have the opportunity to learn more about the wider environment, as well as to develop self-confidence, team work and health. It is a tough challenge and you might be taken out of your comfort zone for a bit but you will be safe with suitable training and supervision, and you won't regret it!



"I discovered that the Award can be flexible and is challenging for disabled and able bodied alike. The Award pushes participants to their personal limits and recognises them equally by the accolade of the Award."

Spencer Aston, UK

## Example ideas

Here's a list of ideas that you could do for your Adventurous Journey, expedition or exploration, or use as a starting point to create a programme of your own.

### Adventurous Journey

- Explore the natural world: glaciations, erosion, geology, coastal studies, river valleys, plant studies, bird studies, animal studies or insect studies
- Explore historic land use
- Investigate the survival or extinction of a language
- Explore human impact: visitor pressure in national parks, monitor pollution, survey the numbers of walkers in remote areas
- Carry out health surveys or health education in remote areas
- Complete a particularly demanding journey by foot, cycle or canoe/kayak – for 3 days and 2 nights with 7 hours of purposeful effort per day, i.e. approx 40km total distance
- Cycle an historic trail



# Next steps

Ready to get started? Just follow these simple steps!

## 1 Register to join the Online Record Book (ORB)

Go to <https://www.onlinerecordbook.org/> to set yourself up in the Online Record Book.

## 2 Register your chosen activities

See pages 6–13 for some activity ideas, or come up with your own, and then speak to your Award Leader, who will need to approve your choices. Enter your chosen activities and goals into your Online Record Book.

## 3 Find your Assessors

Find someone (not a relative) who is an expert in your choice of activity (such as a coach). You can record your Assessors' details in the Online Record Book.

## 4 Do the activities

Do your activities regularly for the set amount of time. Log your activities regularly in the Online Record Book and follow your progress on the progress bar.

## 5 Assessor reports

When you finish a section, you need to get your Assessor to write a report. You can do this by emailing them a link to your summary of activity in the Online Record Book, or you can download and print the form for them to sign, and then scan and upload it into the Online Record Book.

## 6 Celebrate!

When you've completed all four sections, your Award Leader will submit them for approval to the Award's National Office who will authorise your **Silver Award** and send you your badge and Certificate. Congratulations! Now it's time to sign up for your **Gold Award**!

# ORB Frequently Asked Questions

## What's my username?

Your username will be the email address you used when you first registered on the Online Record Book.

## I've confirmed my email address, but still can't log on.

Your Award Leader has to authorise your access to the Online Record Book so check with them if this has been done already.

## Can I change my password?

Yes. Hover the cursor over your name and a box will drop down. From here you can click on your profile and change your password, update your personal details and also change your profile picture.

## Help, I've forgotten my password!

Click on the 'Forgot your password?' link and the password you chose will be emailed to you.

## I've got evidence I want to save, can I save it in the Online Record Book?

Yes, you can upload photographs, videos and scanned documents into your ORB Documents folder.

## How are the percentages worked out for my Award progress?

In the Online Record Book, all logs are recorded in quarter, half and full hours. The Online Record Book uses a system that looks at your past activity and calculates how many hours of your logged hours count towards your Award. When logging, it may initially appear that the hours you log are not being recorded. Sometimes it won't advance your percentage until you log the next lot of hours so don't worry if there is a lag in your percentage.

## My Assessor needs to sign off my logged activities, how can s/he do this?

Once you've completed a section, you can email your Assessor a link to your summary of activities for them to write a report about your sectional activities. Alternatively, you can download and print the summary for your Assessor to sign (or provide another form of proof), then scan it and upload it to your ORB Library. Talk to your Award Leader if you have issues getting your summary into the the Online Record Book.

# Completing your Award

You will have completed your Silver Award when:

- You have done your activities for each section for the minimum time period
- You've recorded all your activities and uploaded evidence into the Online Record Book (ORB)
- Your Assessors are happy with your progress and have made their reports.

Once you've completed your Award, make sure you submit it to your Award Leader using the Online Record Book.

Your Award information will be automatically passed by your Award Leader through the Online Record Book to the National Office who will check everything is correct and, if everything is in order, will send you your Silver certificate and badge.

## Congratulations - you've completed Silver!

With your Silver Award behind you, you can then get started on your Gold Award. You won't have to re-register for the Online Record Book as all your account information will stay the same.



# Any questions?

If you have any questions about your Award, talk to your Award Leader first – they are there to help you.

If you have a problem that can't be answered by your Award Leader, our website or the Online Record Book, contact the National Office:

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award  
AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND | HILLARY AWARD  
Pelorus Trust Sportshouse  
93 Hutt Park Road  
Seaview  
PO Box 38-189  
Wellington Mail Centre  
Lower Hutt 5045

freephone: 0800 69 29 27

[info@dofehillary.org.nz](mailto:info@dofehillary.org.nz)

You can also connect with us via social media:



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