

Expedition Training Framework - Gold

More detailed training information can be found in the DofE *Expedition Guide* and EX².

First aid and emergency procedures

Training based on the current edition of the Authorised Manual of St. John Ambulance, St. Andrew's Ambulance Association or The British Red Cross.

- Action in an emergency – resuscitation, airway, breathing and circulation.
- Recognition and treatment of hypothermia and heatstroke.
- The treatment of wounds and bleeding.
- Treatment for shock.
- The treatment of blisters, cuts, abrasions, minor burns and scalds, headaches, insect bites, sunburn, splinters.
- The recognition of more serious conditions such as sprains, strains, dislocations and broken limbs.
- Knowing what to do in the case of an accident or emergency.
- Summoning help - what people need to know, telephoning for help, written message.
- Getting help, self-help and waiting for help to arrive, keeping safe and warm, helping people to find you.

An awareness of risk and health and safety issues

- Expedition fitness.
- Telling people where you are going.
- Identifying and avoiding hazards.
- Keeping together.
- Weather forecasts – knowing how, where and when to obtain weather forecasts, relating weather forecasts to observed conditions, looking for signs which will indicate changes in the weather.

Navigation and route planning

The 1:25 000 scale Outdoor Leisure or Explorer Maps, available for the whole of England, Scotland and Wales and parts of Northern Ireland, should be used wherever possible as it makes instruction and learning easier. They show the field boundaries, making it easier to locate precisely the footpaths, tracks and lanes used for travel in this type of country. Participants must also be familiar with the 1:50 000 scale Landranger Maps and/or any foreign maps of the area in which the expedition is to take place.

Preparatory map skills

- The nature of maps.
- Map direction.
- Scale and distance, measuring distance, distance and time.
- Conventional signs.
- Marginal information.
- Grid references.
- Understanding contours, recognition of major land forms such as hills, valleys, ridges, spurs.
- Interpretation of contours into mountain land forms and relief, slope and gradients and the determination of height.
- The ability to give a verbal description of a route linking two places from the map.

Practical map skills

- Setting the map.
- Relating the map to the ground.
- Locating position using the map.
- Determining geographical direction, and direction of travel from the map.
- Checking the direction of paths using the set map.
- Identifying and locating features in the country by using the map.
- Locating features marked on the map in the countryside.
- Relating the map and contours to the ground. Estimating journey times in wild country.
- Planning a route, preparing a route card. Estimating speed of travel and arrival times. (ETA estimated time of arrival.)
- Following a planned route.
- Navigation in restricted visibility. Action to be taken in the event of being lost

Compass skills

- The care of the compass.
- The influence of ferrous objects and electromagnetic fields.
- Magnetic variation and the relationship between True, Magnetic and Grid Norths.
- Direction from the compass in terms of the cardinal and inter-cardinal points. Measuring direction in degrees.
- Setting the map by the compass.
- Determining the direction of footpaths or direction of travel.
- Travelling on a bearing. Obtaining a grid bearing from the map, allowing for magnetic variation where appropriate.
- Practically all the understanding and techniques listed above are equally important for expeditions on land or on water, but instruction should be modified as necessary for water expeditions and charts substituted.

Campcraft, equipment and hygiene

- Choosing suitable clothing, footwear and emergency equipment and knowing how to use it.
- Choosing and caring for camping gear.
- Packing a rucksack, waterproofing the contents, always keeping the weight down to a minimum, and about a quarter of the body weight when walking.
- Choosing a camp site, arrangements for water, cooking and sanitation, refuse disposal, fire precautions.
- Pitching and striking tents.

Food and cooking

- Cooking and the use of stoves.
- Safety procedures and precautions which must be observed when using stoves and handling fuels.
- Follow the stove safety instructions.
- Cooking substantial meals under camp conditions.

Countryside, Highway and Water Sports Safety Codes

- Understanding the spirit and content of the Countryside Code.
- The avoidance of noise and disturbance to rural communities.
- A thorough knowledge of the content of the Highway Code with special emphasis on specific modes of travel such as horse riding or cycling if they are to be utilised during the expedition.
- If undertaking a water based expedition, a thorough knowledge of the Water Sports Safety Code.

Observation recording and presentations

- Choosing an aim.
- Developing observation skills and different methods of recording information.
- Skills relevant to the method of presentation.
- Researching relevant information.

Teambuilding

The Expedition section involves participants working together as a team in order to complete the expedition. Teambuilding should permeate all expedition training and can be enhanced through team-building exercises and regular reviews so that when the group sets out on the qualifying expedition, participants are able to work together as an effective and cohesive unit.

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Proficiency in the mode of travel

Cycling

- Training to the three levels of the National Standard for Cycle Training, or an equivalent level of competence to gain the basic skills and cycle maintenance experience, and training programmes appropriate to the environment in which the participant is cycling.
- Understanding the spirit and content of the Responsible cycling and code of behaviour guidance and have a thorough knowledge of the Mountain Bike Code.
- Maintenance and repair of the cycle.
- Loading a cycle with equipment.
- Handling a loaded cycle.
- The skills associated with off-road cycling as appropriate.

Horse riding

The horse riding expedition training syllabus is set out in the DofE Training framework for horseback expeditions.

Expeditions on water

Training should be directed towards the completion of a journey on water and not restricted to the skills of handling the craft. It must be concerned with any potential hazards associated with the water on which the expedition will take place, as well as infections or health concerns related to any possible water pollution. Participants must be able to swim a distance of at least 25 metres in light clothing without any buoyancy aid and be competent and confident in the relevant capsizing and recovery drill and man overboard drill.

All participants must:

- Wear appropriate buoyancy aids or lifejackets. Exceptions may be made, with the approval of the Licensed Organisation, for rowing expeditions on canals and rivers, and for sculling craft where traditionally, by custom and practice, life jackets are not usually worn, except on the instruction of the Cox.
- Wear suitable clothing and footwear.
- Be able to recognise and treat hypothermia/hyperthermia.
- Understand the Water Sports Safety Code.
- Be able to administer resuscitation on and in the water, as well as adjacent to it.

All craft must have adequate buoyancy and be sound, suitable and fitted out for the conditions in which they are to be used. A suitable repair kit must be carried and participants should be trained in its use.

Canoeing

All participants must be adequately trained to the requirements for paddle expeditions as set out in the DofE *Expedition Guide*. All participants must undergo training based on the Training framework – core paddling skills.

Rowing

All participants must complete training based on the Training framework for boatwork. Licensed Organisations may direct their participants to undergo training based on the training schemes of the Sea Cadets, Scouts or Girlguiding UK.

Sailing – dinghies and open keelboats

At Gold level, all participants must attain proficiency to the standard of the RYA National Sailing Scheme - Seamanship and Day Sailing as a base level minimum.

Sailing – yachts, multihulls and sail training vessels

All participants must attain the RYA Day Skipper Shore Based and Practical Certificates or have an equivalent level of competence. For offshore expeditions it is mandatory to hold the appropriate award. For expeditions in vessels making overnight passages in open sea areas, at least one crew member must hold the RYA/DTp Coastal Skipper Certificate of Competence.