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OC Squadrons
Attn Sqn DofE Officers

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD – 6TH EDITION HANDBOOK – UPDATE

1. All units have had a free copy of the latest handbook for the DofE Award scheme, and there are some major changes to the scheme as we know it. I would draw your attention to the following points – all of which are in the handbook and the web site:

a. CHANGE OF TITLE – The DofE scheme

The Scheme is now to be called the DofE scheme and is to be quoted on all press releases and correspondence etc.

b. OLD SERVICE SECTION – REPLACED BY NEW SECTION - VOLUNTEERING

The old Service section has been abolished and new record books will have the new section Volunteering in due course. Old book can continue to be used and the Service section pages used, but the new conditions apply now. NO change to Skills or Physical Recreation.

All the rules regarding the length of time etc are the same for each award. However any courses run DO NOT NOW count on their own, and as such if a cadet does a Police, Fire or First Aid Course then the dates must be for the full time period and not the length of the course. This may mean some practical applications – case studies etc to fill out the required time.

c. VOLUNTEERING SECTION – NEW ATC PROGRAMME

The DofE has recognised that attending ATC as a cadet / staff is a source of volunteering in itself. As such there is now no longer any requirement for cadets to have gained any particular rank for any level. Any cadet can use attending at their Sqn as their volunteering section – just ensure your right ups do show they do something at the unit useful. A copy of the new programme is attached. If they have a rank then quite obviously you can quote that as well.

d. Expeditions – DISTANCE RULES REPLACED

The old rules in respect of distance for each award are now replaced with hours of activity. For Bronze there must be minimum of 6, Silver 7 and Gold 8, hours of activity per day, with at least ½ of those times being spent actually journeying.

Expedition assessors at Bronze cannot be the same as the person who has trained the group – as such there will be 2 signatures on the practice & training page and a different one for the assessed expedition and presentation. If not the book will be returned.

Expedition Assessors at Silver should be independent of the unit where possible (but not essential), and again cannot sign for training and assessment as above.

Expedition Assessors at Gold will be approved by WHQ/ RHQ. (as at present)

e. PHYSICAL RECREATION – is now just plain Physical

Physical Section: Errors are appearing especially in relation to TEAM SPORTS. Under this heading the write up should only concentrate on one team sport (Rugby, Football, Netball etc). The write up should state that the candidate has for the time period stated undertaken regular training and practice sessions as well as playing in competitive matches, and their performance has improved. You can then mention about being in the Sqn, Wing , Region, Corps, school or local representative teams etc

f. DofE STAFF TRAINING

As a result of incoming changes, staff will be encouraged initially (and after 1 Jan 2010 have no choice) to attend courses and become accredited assessors for the scheme

1. Introduction to the DofE Scheme Course – 1 day (held locally)
2. Expedition Assessors Course – 1 day (held locally)
3. Supervised expedition assessment - undertake a supervised assessment of an expedition – assessor already accredited.

Completion of 1 - 3 will get the candidate appointed as an accredited assessor and be issued with registration number. (For 2009 there is a transition scheme – packs already sent out to all who qualify which need to be submitted by Sept 09).

A further 2 day course (RHQ level) is then available for candidates to obtain a DofE Foundation Certificate.

g. DofE RECORD BOOKS – PRE TYPED ENTRIES - ETC

As of 1 April 09 the Regional DofE Officer will be signing Silver record books. He is concerned over the standard of pre- typed entries being stuck into record books. He is going to insist on the following:

- a. If you use pre-typed entries then they are to be personalised and not just have the cadets name entered in later (or he / she being crossed out etc). As such ensure that you comply and if need be fill in and then print off. I appreciate this is a pain but not my decision!.
- b. Ensure that you use the correct write ups – do not shorten just to fit label, but make sure that the write up is a good read and covers the points needed.
- c. Cadets are to make their comments in the record books (as there are places for this) and sign then!.

TO ASSIST I WILL BE RE-WRITING THE WING DofE GUIDE ASAP AND THIS WILL BE ISSUED TO UNITS IN BEFORE APRIL 09.

2. If you have any queries then please contact me BEFORE you write the entry up – as it may save you having to do it again!. (Pages for record books are available to download from the DofE website) Contact me on 02476 491655 or email B@bcoats.freeserve.co.uk

Original Signed

B Coats
Sqn Ldr
Wg DofE Officer

Copy to OC Wing / WSO's