

**Katy Kemp**

**From:** Duke of Edinburgh's Award NS Division [dukeofed2@sportnovascotia.ca]  
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Sept. 2007

## Duke of Edinburgh's Award School Information Newsletter

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**Dear Katy,**

For many Nova Scotian youth, 'back to school' will mean 'back to work'...back to work on the Duke Programme that is! The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Programme is a self-development programme for youth, currently reaching over 1500 youth in Nova Scotia, many of whom are involved with the programme thanks to their school community.

We hope that you find this newsletter informative, as we look for your support in making this great programme available to more youth across the province!

Best Wishes,

Connie Miller  
Executive Director

and

Katy Kemp  
TD Waterhouse Award Officer

### About The Award Programme

The Award is a non-competitive, self-directed programme open to any young person between the ages of 14 and 25 years, while being flexible enough to meet the needs and interests of all young people, regardless of gender, ability, cultural background, geographic location or socio-economic



## DID YOU KNOW?

To date, nearly four million young people have been involved in the programme throughout the world.

## How to make the Duke Programme available to students

Through administrative and teacher support, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Programme can be made available to all interested students. 'Duke Groups' run similarly to other extracurricular groups and clubs that run during the school year. The Duke programme encourages students to take initiative and become more involved both within their school and the surrounding community. With the mentorship provided by a teacher, students learn valuable leadership skills as they challenge themselves in the four areas of the Duke programme; Community Service, Physical Fitness, Skill Development, and Adventurous Journey.

status. There are currently over 1500 young Nova Scotians participating in the Award.

## Participation

Participation in the Award Programme is on a volunteer basis, and builds character by developing such qualities as self-confidence, effort, responsibility, compassion and self-reliance.

## Ages and Award Levels

Each of the three levels (Bronze, Silver, Gold) is progressively more challenging than the previous one; yet the Award Programme can be adapted for individuals regardless of ability or circumstance.

There are three Award levels, which may be attempted at any time after the ages shown below:

**Bronze** - 14th Birthday    **Silver** - 15th Birthday    **Gold** - 16th Birthday

Participation requires completion of four programme components:

- Volunteer Community Service
- Developing a hobby or skill
- Participation in physical recreation activities
- Adventurous project (camping expeditions)

## High School Credit



It is important to recognize the learning and achievement that happens outside the traditional classroom, and so in 2004 the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Programme's partnership with the Department of Education created an opportunity for students to earn High School Credit while working on the Award levels. The Award is still a voluntary extracurricular activity; not a "course" taught within school curriculum. Nova Scotia students who successfully complete an Award level are eligible to receive a personal development High School Elective Credit called:

Bronze Award - Duke of Edinburgh Bronze 10  
(course code #149117)

Silver Award - Duke of Edinburgh Silver 11  
(course code #149118)

Gold Award - Duke of Edinburgh Gold 12  
(course code #149119)

The three cornerstones of the programme are to:

show  
**IMPROVEMENT!**  
be a  
**CHALLENGE!**  
make an  
**EFFORT!**

## We want to help!

We are here to support your efforts as together we can provide your students with a great "Duke" experience.

As your provincial office, we are here to provide you with resources and information to help make the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Programme a success within your school.

Leadership workshops and trainings are provided three times a year free of charge.

## FAQs

### Does it disrupt school or college or work?

All activities must be undertaken in their free (non-directed) time and can be lunchtime, afterschool, or evening clubs and activities. Since the Award is an extension of a young person's personal interests and activities, and has a very open-ended completion time, Award work can fit around school, college or other work quite easily.

### What are the benefits of involvement?

Some of the benefits to young people include developing or discovering a sense of achievement; new skills and interests; self-confidence and self-reliance; leadership skills and abilities; exciting opportunities; friendship; experience of teamwork, problem-solving and decision-making; increased motivation; time management skills; enhanced self-esteem; development of communication skills; as well as a network of local, national and international connections.

### How much does it cost?

There is a \$30.00 fee at enrolment to cover the cost of a Record Book and processing. Depending on what a participant chooses to do for his or her Award, there will inevitably be additional costs:

- Service: usually little or no cost.
- Skills: costs depend on the skills chosen and can be negligible.
- Physical Recreation: costs depend on the sport chosen and on local availability.
- Expeditions: costs depend on where the expedition will be - the greatest cost is often transport to and from the expedition venue. Equipment can often be borrowed or hired.
- Residential Project (Gold Award only): many week-long activities are very low-cost, especially those where some form of voluntary service is being undertaken by the participant.

### How long does it take to get an Award?

The following are a minimum, participants have until the age of 15 to complete the requirements.

**Bronze**-6 months

**Silver**-6 months for those who achieved Bronze, 12 months direct entry.

**Gold**-12 months for those who achieved Silver. 18 months direct entry.

We wish you great success in the upcoming school year,

**Sincerely,**

The Nova Scotia Division of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Programme

## How To Contact Us:

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