



Information Package

Fourth Edition 2016



**The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award - Canada
British Columbia & Yukon**

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Hello,

Some of the best learning happens outside the classroom and equipping young people for life means providing them with meaningful opportunities to develop self-esteem and confidence. We can help with that!

This package contains information for administrators, teachers, and youth program leaders about The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, an internationally recognized self-development and leadership program for youth ages 14-24 that can easily be integrated into existing youth focused organizations like High Schools, Cadets, Scouts, Guides, and youth programming through community centres.

The success of The Award is evident in the over 7 million youth in 143 countries who have participated in The Award since it began in 1956. A 2009 national study of Award achievers found that:

- ◆ 87% felt more confident about themselves and their ability to achieve their life goals compared to the national average of only 44% for youth ages 15-19.
- ◆ 80% felt they understood their strengths and weaknesses better for having done the Award.
- ◆ More than 20% of Award participants are considered at-risk youth and, of those, 84% said they developed skills and abilities during the Award program that they used to achieve future goals.

When youth do The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, they are given unique opportunities to grow, mature, and transition into the best versions of themselves.

Award achievers will also earn two high school credits for every level of the Award they complete. The Award is recognized by post-secondary institutions, scholarship providers, and top employers who value the self-development and leadership skills The Award represents.

Please review the enclosed information. Our team is keen to help your organization bring the profound, positive, and life changing impacts of The Award to your youth. Thank you for your interest, we are looking forward to doing great work together!

Sincerely,

Sushil Saini, Executive Director



How Does the Award Program Work?

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award challenges youth ages 14 – 24 to set and achieve goals in four activity areas: skill development, volunteering, physical activity and adventurous journeys in nature. There are three levels of the Award: Bronze, Silver, and Gold. Each are of increasing intensity and duration.

To start The Award, youth register by submitting a registration form and registration fee to the Division office for the level they want to achieve. In turn, we provide youth with a Record Book to record their activities. Once they have completed all the activities required, youth send the Record Book and Submission form back to the Division. We will review and approve the Award.

After Award approval, youth receive a pin and a letter confirming Award completion that they can use to get high school credit. Youth, leaders, and family members are also invited to an Award ceremony where they are presented with a certificate by notable community members such as as the Lt. Governor of BC, the Governor General of Canada, or a member of The Royal Family.

Who are Duke of Edinburgh's Award Group Leaders?

Award Leaders are guides and mentors who support their youth in doing the Award program. Your support of youth in pursuit of the Award truly does make a difference in your communities and helps to create committed citizens of the world. A leader is a person who works with youth as part of a larger organization, such as a volunteer with Scouts, Guides, or Cadets, or an employee with a High School or a community centre. For example, a school teacher or Youth Program Leader.

What is the role of a Group Leader?

Group Leaders promote The Award program to the youth in their organization and help them register for The Award. They support youth through The Award experience so they can complete their Award and reach their goals. An Award Leader's role within their group encompasses the following areas:

1. Registering group members and helping them get started in The Award.
2. Supporting the youth as they work towards their Award.
3. Abiding by The Award's National Abuse Policy & National Risk Management Policy.

Group Leader responsibilities can include:

- Raising awareness and actively promoting the program in their organization.
- Helping youth to organize activities that count towards earning The Award.
- Communicating with the Division Office and reporting any challenging occurrences.
- Helping youth fill out the Record Book correctly.
- Sharing stories & news about the program with the Division Office.
- Presenting pins and encouraging youth to attend Division organized ceremonies.
- You will also be invited to attend ceremonies with the Lt. Governor of BC and Royal Family, your attendance is optional, but very welcome.

The Award office will orient and support Group Leaders every step of the way, we are here to help you help youth achieve their goals!



Why would I want to be an Award Leader?

Besides engaging with youth and aiding in their development of new skills, self-confidence, and a greater appreciation of the environment and their community; you are developing your own skills as a leader and youth worker. You will gain professional development experience and build your resume with internationally recognized and valuable experience. Because we value our Group Leaders, we also have a vibrant leader recognition program with achievements you can add to your resume.

How does the Division Office support Award Group Leaders?

We have many resources available to orient you to The Award and help you promote it.

1. Start by visiting the Leaders section of our website at www.dukeofed.org/bc/award-leaders. Here, you will learn how to become a Group Leader, how to organize an Award Group at your organization, as well as links to information about how to Start, Do, and Get The Award.
2. We regularly host Leader Training Webinars on a monthly basis. These are an interactive orientation opportunity to The Award program from start to finish. You can also ask questions of the Award Officers leading the webinar. Can't make one of our live webinars? No problem! Visit the Leaders section of our website to watch a 22-minute Leader Training Video.
3. The Record Book Supplement is a core resource for Leaders and Participants alike. This 12 page document explains the Award and answers some of the most common questions that Participants and parents have. You can find the Record Book Supplement also in the Leaders section of our website.

What do I need to know to start an Award Group?

Contact our Award Officer and Leader Liaison at the Division office who will be pleased to take you through the steps to register. They will direct you to the Group Registration Form and help you through the process.

Please note that leaders and the organizations they represent are responsible for ensuring all criminal record checks and vulnerable sector screenings are up to date and that appropriate insurance is in place for any activities the group undertakes. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Program accepts no liability for any activities completed as part of the program.

What do Group Leaders say about their involvement in the Award?

Ravinder Safaya - Group Leader

Award Leader for 9 years - Lower Mainland, working primarily with immigrant youth.

"I have seen youth increasingly engage in their schools, local community and at home, in a positive way. Through participating in expeditions youth gain a transformative experience. The youth face for the first time physical and mental challenges, and on its completion, I see their joy, pride and a sense of accomplishment. Through these expeditions we present to them many of the recreational activities Canadians are known for, i.e. being in wilderness, outdoor camping, canoeing, biking, etc. The whole program helps them transition from an immigrant youth to a Canadian youth. It shapes them to blend confidently into mainstream society by achieving a perfect balance of their own culture and the Canadian culture. I enjoy my role as a Leader bringing about this change, by mentoring these immigrant youth and encouraging them to take up leadership roles within their own community."





Award Overview

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a non-competitive Award program. Youth qualify for the Award by completing activities of their choice in their communities. All activities must be extra-curricular and voluntary. Upon Registration youth will receive a Record Book. Youth record the activities they have chosen and ask an assessor, who is a community member that has expertise in the area, to confirm time and dates of activities.

There are three levels - Bronze, Silver and Gold. For each level there are four sections to be completed:

Service - Volunteer in the community

Skill - Develop a skill or hobby

Adventurous Journey - Explore the natural environment

Physical Recreation - Exercise and stay active

At the Gold level, there is one additional section: the **Residential Project** - 5 days in a new environment working with new people.

Groups & Independents

Participants can complete The Award in two ways - as a member of a group or as an Independent. Groups are generally associated with larger youth organizations, such as schools, community centres, Guides, Scouts or Cadets. In this case a leader, such as yourself, will usually help coordinate activities and support the group members as they work towards their Award.

Frequency of Activity

Youth should participate in their activities on a regular basis for an average of one hour per week for each of Service, Skill and Physical Recreation.

Level	For all sections	For one of Service/Skill/Physical Recreation
Bronze	3 months (13 weeks)	An additional 3 months (26 weeks total)
Silver (from Bronze)	6 months (26 weeks)	
Direct Entry Silver	6 months (26 weeks)	An additional 6 months (52 weeks total)
Gold (from Silver)	12 months (52 weeks)	
Direct Entry Gold	12 months (52 weeks)	An additional 6 months (78 weeks total)

Adventurous Journey

An Adventurous Journey entails learning about and respecting the natural environment. Award Participants are expected to journey a significant distance under their own power, whether hiking, kayaking, biking, snowshoeing or some other means. Each Journey must be preceded by Preliminary Training and a Practice Journey. Participants are responsible for ensuring their own training and safety.

Award Level	Practice Journey	Qualifying Journey	Hours of Activities
Bronze	1 Day	2 Days, 1 Night	6 hours per day
Silver	2 Days, 1 Night	3 Days, 2 Nights	7 hours per day
Gold	2 Days, 1 Night	4 Days, 3 Nights	8 hours per day



Registration

Each youth doing the program needs to be registered through the Division Office. Activities can be counted toward the Award after the date youth are officially registered. Registration can be done online with a credit card, or the registration form can be downloaded from the website and submitted with a cheque. There is a \$30 registration fee for each level of The Award.

Achiever's share the impact the Award has had on their lives.

Michael - Silver Award Achiever - now completing Gold

"My Duke of Edinburgh's Award experience was enjoyable, especially the Adventurous Journey. We did a cultural exploration of the Gitksan territory, and learned about the culture. I became a man when I caught and gutted fish. We did storytelling, hiking, exploring the land, camping. We also explored 'Ksan and learned the story of the totem poles."



Michael receiving his Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Government House, November 21, 2015.

L-R: Noordin Karmali, President of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, BC & Yukon Division, Michael Antoine, Silver Award Achiever, The Honourable Judith Guichon, Lt. Governor of British Columbia.

Making The Award accessible to all youth.

The BC & Yukon Division is unique for its diverse engagement programs for under-served communities:

- TD inner-city Vancouver initiative: sponsors at-risk, lower income and youth with disabilities.
- RBC supports our new immigrant youth initiative in Surrey and Fraser Valley.
- The National Benefactor Fund supports Aboriginal youth engagement in Coastal Communities.
- Teck supports our rural youth initiative.
- A donor sponsors registration fees for 2 cadet corps in the Yukon Territory.

Our leaders, supporters, including volunteers and donors, are the reason that in 2015 over 2200 youth joined The Award program, 775 achieved an Award, and 62 new Award groups were established in communities across BC and Yukon. We look forward to having you join us!

Contact Us

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 [Facebook.com/dukeofedbcyukon](https://www.facebook.com/dukeofedbcyukon)

 [Twitter.com/dukeofedbcyk](https://twitter.com/dukeofedbcyk)

More great resources and information can be found on our website at: www.dukeofed.org/bc