

## Parent and Guardian Involvement Guidelines

Parents and Guardians can be integral supporters for young people working towards their Award. So much so that we have developed these parent engagement guidelines for the parents and guardians of Award participants. More information on how parents can best support their youth in achieving the Award, can be found on our [Parent and Guardian webpage](#).

### Contacting for support:

The Award framework is based on the principals of self-development and personal achievement for young people. As such, in keeping with the spirit of the Award, it is hoped that **young people will contact their Award Leaders or Division office themselves** when they require guidance and/or support in carrying out their Award activities.

Ideally, when young people need to contact reach out, parents and guardians can **support by coaching** them in communicating via phone, email, or in person. Doing the Award is a phenomenal opportunity for youth to learn how to take responsibility, seek help, and find solutions. Award Leaders and our team mem is friendly, open, and trained in supporting youth.

Participants can always find their Award Leader's contact information by logging into their Online Record Book and clicking on "My Award Leader".

### Award requirements:

The Award is an internationally recognized standard of leadership excellence for young people. The **activities and standards required for achievement** reflect this. As such, we expect parents to support their youth by upholding these standards and completing Award activities in keeping with the spirit of the Award.

### Disinterest and overwhelm:

There will be struggles and bumps along the way as your child works to earn their Award. In some cases, a young person who sets out to achieve the Award may decide to stop or take a break just because they feel like it, and that is okay. Sometimes there are unexpected occurrences that happen in life which result in activities being put on hold. Setting healthy boundaries is an important part of establishing one's identity, which sometimes means your child will say no, or not yet. Continue to support your child by encouraging them to communicate with their Award Leader.

The role of Award Leaders and other adult mentors in the Award are to facilitate each participant to make their own decisions: they will help them determine when to meet and how they will stay in communication, but ultimately, participants are responsible for seeking out opportunities to enhance their learning, and taking initiative to communicate regularly with their Award Leader and their section assessors.

**Your guidance, encouragement, and understanding are one of the elements that helps equip young people for the life ahead of them. While no other person can understand a young person's strengths and weaknesses better than their parent or guardian, remember, the Award journey belongs to them.**

### **Concerns about Award Leaders:**

A young person's Award experience is considerably influenced by the adult roles involved in it, of which an Award Leader plays a significant role. We are committed to ensuring high quality training is in place for Award Leaders and volunteers that deliver the framework. It is the competence and confidence of our Award Leaders that provides inspirational, top quality experiences for the thousands of young people who aim to achieve the Award.

We are deeply grateful for the adults involved in delivering the Award, as without their hard work and dedication, there is no Award. For many of these individuals, the role is a voluntary role and often goes above and beyond other priorities such as a full-time job or family life. It takes time for an Award Leader to support and monitor participants and balancing one's time with multiple priorities can be a challenge for anyone.

If you have a concern about an Award Leader, we encourage you to speak with the Leader or Award Centre to try and rectify the situation. If you are unable to reach a solution, please contact your [Division office](#).