



(Name changed from *General Code of Conduct* – June 2020)

Revised: Oct 2021

Approved: April 29, 2022

For Review: April 1, 2024

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award - Canada

General Standards of Behaviour

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Canada (Award Canada) is committed to providing an environment in which all participants, parents/parental figures, volunteers and staff are treated fairly and with respect. **Harassment, abuse, discrimination or bullying will not be tolerated.**

All persons involved with The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award (the "Award") in Canada are expected to abide by the General Standards of Behaviour below, whether engaged in online, in-person or remote activities:

Participants must

- Participate in the Award voluntarily.
- Respect others, including Award leaders, staff, volunteers, and fellow participants.
- Not engage in any abusive peer activities such as bullying, cyberbullying, initiation ceremonies, ridiculing, etc.
- Respect the principles, guidelines and decisions made concerning requirements to earn the Award, endeavoring to fulfill them appropriately and in the spirit of the Award.
- Help to ensure a safe and secure environment for other participants, volunteers, and Award staff, by helping to identify and communicate risks.

Parents/Parental Figures must

- Respect the principles, guidelines and decisions made concerning requirements to earn the Award
- Refrain from using any words, actions or behaviour that threaten, harass, or disrespect other participants, Award Leaders, other volunteers, and Award staff.
- Refrain from disruptive behaviour which undermines the Award Leader / participant mentor relationship, including trying to gain access to the participant's Online Record Book, or attempting to gain exemptions or preferential treatment.
- Avoid excessive communication to Award volunteers and staff that seeks to undermine Award standards and requirements.

Differences of opinion and personality clashes within an Award Centre or with an Award Leader are not resolved by Award staff. You are expected to resolve issues through calm dialogue between the parties directly involved.

We ask you to understand that one of the purposes of the Award is to foster independence and skill development in the participant and encourage you to coach your child/child in your care and support them in taking responsibility for their own communications with their Award Leader and/or Award Staff.

Award Leaders and other volunteers must

- Respect the guidelines and rules around activities required to earn the Award and support Award Participants in completing them appropriately.



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- Respond to communication from Award Staff in a timely manner.
- Accurately convey information and advice to young people on the requirements and procedures to register, complete, and submit an Award
- Act with honesty and integrity when dealing with property, monies and any other assets belonging to the Award.
- Ensure your conduct, whether in person, online, or otherwise, represents the integrity of The Duke of Edinburgh's international Award Canada, and is in line with the guidelines for adults working within the Award.
- Do everything possible to help ensure a safe and welcoming environment for participants, volunteers, and Award staff.
- Respect the rights to privacy for all participants, volunteers and Award staff and maintain confidentiality of their personal information.
- Respectfully address behaviours or attitudes that are inconsistent with the values of the Award
- Avoid being impaired by any substances (alcohol, strong medication, drugs) at any Award events.

Breaches of these standards may result in internal or external investigation and may lead to disciplinary or administrative action.

Additional text for publication on web version

Please help us avoid such steps by reading our [Parent and Guardian webpage](#), the [Supporting Award Participants – For Parents and Guardian Involvement](#) and [Adults in the Award – Safe from Harm leaflet](#), to ensure a wholesome, well rounded and fun Award Experience for everyone.

As always, we appreciate your support of our framework, specifically developed to ensure young people see their infinite potential and are **#WorldReady**.