



Open Gold DofE Expedition 2026 – Ashdown Forest

Dear Participant,

I am writing with full details of your upcoming Gold DofE Expedition which will take place in the Ashdown Forest area.

The first day of your Expedition Package will be a preparation and training day for all participants. This will be held at Adamswell Scout Campsite, Broom Lane, Langton Green, TN3 9JL. Participants should arrive at Adamswell to be ready for a 9am start. If anyone wishes to travel by train, a lift can be arranged from Tonbridge station, as long as this is requested in advance. Any participant travelling by car may leave their vehicle at Adamswell for the duration of the expedition. All participants will camp at Adamswell on the first night.

On Day 2, those undertaking their Practice Expedition will continue their expedition training whilst those undertaking their Assessed Expedition will set off on their expedition.

The expedition will be based in the Weald of Kent and Ashdown Forest area. For those who have recently completed their Practice with us in the same area, there are sufficient route options to ensure you will be on a different route to the one you used for your Practice.

Groups will be planning their exact routes during their preparation day on Saturday.

The expedition Finish Point will be Kings Standing Car Park on the Ashdown Forest (TN6 1XE). A map showing the exact location can be found here: - <https://goo.gl/maps/AH9iSy7qRB2wBmzq5>.

We expect teams to reach the finish between 4pm and 5pm but due to nature of a DofE Expedition, this could be slightly earlier or later. We will supply a lift back to Adamswell for anyone who left their car there during the expedition.

We will supply Tents, Stoves, Gas, Maps and Compasses for all teams automatically, so these do not need to be requested.

We can supply Rucksacks for any participants who require them, but these must be booked in advance. If you would like to book a rucksack, please do so using the form below: -

<https://forms.office.com/e/5dyW2Y1Uqd>

All kit requests must be made at least two weeks before the expedition.

If participants do request a rucksack, please bring your kit in another bag and then transfer it on arrival.

Participants must be able to carry all their personal kit as well as a share of the group kit. We can offer advice on packing upon arrival if needed.

Participants must ensure that they have any required personal medications with them (Inhalers, epipens and ensure they are in date etc.).

Participants must supply their own food for the duration of the expedition, including the training and preparation days. Please note that participants may not cook at lunchtime so should bring food that does not require heating for lunches.

On the training days, participants are welcome to order food in during the evening if they wish, however, please note this is only acceptable on the first evening for those doing Assessed and the first and second evenings for those doing Practice. Stoves will be provided for those who wish to cook at the campsite.

Meals required will be lunch and Dinner on Day 1, Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner on Days 2, 3 & 4 and Breakfast and Lunch on Day 5.

I have attached a copy of the DofE Expedition Kit List to this letter. Participants should ensure that they have all the essential items, as failure to do so may result in you not being able to participate in this event.

There are three forms which must be completed for all participants attending the expedition. These are all completed online and you can find the links to them below: -

- Consent Form - <https://sign.signable.app/#/widget/A64Ch4AgHe>
- Code of Conduct Form - <https://sign.signable.app/#/widget/ZFU64Kb6YV>

Photographic Consent Form - <https://sign.signable.app/#/widget/UsH2RTYXrF>

All forms must be returned 1 month before the event date.

Please check the weather forecast before your expedition and ensure you are prepared accordingly.

If for whatever reason your expedition is cancelled during the event, your parents/guardians will be expected to arrange transport to pick you up regardless of the time of night or day.

If Parents / Guardians need to contact staff during the expedition, please call the Expedition Leader on 07779 874801.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions in advance of the expedition.

Yours sincerely



Nick Burgess
DofE Operations Manager