



Most frequently asked questions about Nottinghamshire County Councils DofE access centres

Where are the DofE access centres located?

Currently we have three locations where our DofE access teams run training and oversee the DofE journey for young people accessing the service.

The South Access centre currently meets in Cotgrave for Bronze and at County Hall for Silver. The East Access centre meets in Newark and the West Access centre meets at The Mill in Sutton in Ashfield.

Each centre runs in slightly different ways, but essentially a program of training, support and expeditions is produced with groups meeting on an evening in the week during school terms with training walks and expeditions during weekends and school holidays. The centres are run by part time staff and volunteers.

How much does it cost?

Each participant pays a DofE participation fee which currently is £22 at Bronze and Silver and £29 at Gold. This registers the young person with the DofE; they will also receive a DofE log book, discount card and eDofE online account where they can record their DofE journey.

To complete the expedition section within one of our centres costs £70 at Bronze, Silver is £110 and Gold is £170. For full details of what this does or does not include, please contact us.

There are many different ways to complete the physical, volunteering and skills sections of the award and whilst our volunteers and support workers guide participants in what to do, any cost associated with these sections is not included.

At Gold Level, there is an additional residential section. There are lots of residential opportunities out there, but The Mill Adventure Base does offer adventurous activity Gold residentials during February half term, the summer holidays and October half term. The February half term residential has a special price offer for Nottinghamshire residents of £125 for a five day/ four night package all-inclusive package.

What expedition equipment is needed?

What is required will be covered during expedition training; items like tents, stoves and maps can usually be borrowed. Other expedition items may also be available upon request.

Who can access the centres?

Any young person within Nottinghamshire can potentially access this provision, subject to suitability and availability providing they cannot access the award through their school.

What is the age range?

Generally most young people start their bronze award in year nine or ten, Silvers in year 10 or 11 and Golds from year 11, however a DofE award can be completed up to a 25th birthday.

For further information and to discuss our DofE provision, please phone our DofE office on 01623 556110 or email dukeofedinburgh@nottsc.gov.uk