



The Role of the Assessor during Duke of Edinburgh's Award Qualifying Expeditions



This sheet is a summary of the key points on Pages 61-62 of The Award Handbook, 4th Edition and Chapter 6.4, pages 429-442 of the Expedition Guide, 4th Edition and lays out the commitment expected of Assessors by Kent Scouts with the Scout Association as Operating Authority. It is recommended that Assessors read these chapters.

All Qualifying Expeditions within the Expedition Section, (including Explorations and Other Adventurous Projects) must be assessed to ensure that each participant has fulfilled all the relevant conditions. The Assessor is responsible to Kent Scouts for ensuring that the conditions are met. The Assessor must be an adult approved by Kent Scouts.

The safety and pastoral care of participants is NOT the responsibility of the Assessor, but he/she may give guidance and advice to the Supervisor if the situation dictates.

- At **Bronze** level the Assessor must not have been involved in any of the training or instruction of the group.
- At **Silver** level the Assessor must be independent of the Explorer/Network Unit.
- At **Gold** Level the Assessor must be independent of the Explorer/Network Unit and not associated with it in any way.

To carry out their role effectively Assessors must be:

- ❖ Familiar with the conditions of the Expedition Section.
- ❖ Competent in the skills common to all Expeditions as set out in the Award Handbook.
- ❖ Competent in the skills associated with the mode of travel used by the participants. *(Another person may provide this specialist knowledge or experience).*
- ❖ Familiar with the area in which the Expedition takes place.

The key tasks for the Assessor are:

- ◆ Verify with the Unit Leader that he/she is qualified to assess the group's Award Level and qualified to assess in the area of the Expedition (particularly relevant to wild country).
- ◆ Liaise with the Supervisor regarding Expedition plans; pre-expedition check; group meetings; checkpoints; debriefing the group and reports.
- ◆ Scrutinise the entire Expedition plans to confirm that it meets the conditions of the Award. Recommend any necessary amendments for reasons of safety or to meet the Award conditions.
- ◆ Confirm that the required training and practice journey(s) have been satisfactorily completed.

- ◆ Lead the pre-expedition check with the group and the Supervisor, ensuring that the group is properly equipped and competent to undertake the Expedition.
- ◆ Ensure that the participants are aware of the criteria by which they are being assessed, Expedition Guide, p431, and the style of the assessment.
- ◆ Meet the group en route and at campsites on each day of the Expedition, as often as necessary to ensure that the conditions are fulfilled.
- ◆ Conduct a debrief at the end of the Expedition, separately with the group and the Supervisor (and/or Mentor in the case of Explorations), or together if invited by the group.
- ◆ Complete and return Record Books, quoting Assessor Accreditation Number – if you are registered as one with Kent and Medway LEA's. Quote warrant type otherwise.
- ◆ Fill in report and return to County D of E Advisor.