

June 2026

Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award

Participant Information Booklet

Dolphin House Outdoor Education Centre



Welcome

The Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award is a nationally recognised achievement that helps young people build confidence, resilience, and skills for life.

At Dolphin House, we provide expert support, high-quality outdoor experiences, and structured guidance to help you complete your Gold Award and enjoy the journey along the way.

This programme is a commitment – but it is also an opportunity to take part in memorable experiences that will stay with you for life.

Who Can Take Part?

The Gold Award is open to pupils who have completed or are completing Silver, and those entering through Direct Gold (no previous DofE required). Direct entrants will complete an extended programme.

What You Will Complete

You must complete Volunteering, Physical, Skills, Expedition, and Residential sections.

Volunteering Ideas

Assisting at youth clubs, volunteering in charity shops, supporting community events, conservation work, helping in primary schools.

Physical Ideas

Gym programmes, running, cycling, swimming, team sports, dance, hillwalking, kayaking.

Skills Ideas

Cooking, photography, music, art, languages, coding.

June 2026

Expedition Section

Dolphin House provides expedition training, a practice expedition and a qualifying expedition. These are usually walking expeditions. In the past, sailing, paddling and cycling expeditions have been offered and may be available depending on demand.

Participants must complete both a practice and qualifying expedition. Expeditions are self-reliant, and participants must carry their own equipment and navigate independently. A good level of fitness is required. Full training is provided.

Residential Section

A 5 day / 4 night residential is offered at Dolphin House, including outdoor adventure activities, conservation tasks and team building. Participants can also organise their own via the DofE Opportunity Finder.

Commitment and Support

Participants must stay motivated and organised. Support is provided by Dolphin House staff, school DofE Leaders, and eDofE.

Costs

Enrolment is £40 and includes eDofE access. Expedition package is £250, covering training, practice, and qualifying expedition. Payment plans and funded places are available.

Important Information

Recruitment Day attendance is essential. It is free of charge and must be booked via ClubSpark.

Next Steps

Attend Recruitment Day, enrol online (information will be provided at the recruitment day), start sections, begin your Gold journey

Contact

Dolphin House Outdoor Education Centre

dolphinhouse@south-ayrshire.gov.uk