CENTRAL ENGLAND

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Countryside Etiquette - good practice guide

The DofE Expedition section is reliant on the goodwill of rural communities.

We need to show consideration and courtesy for the rural way of life if we are to be welcomed.

Please use this good practice guide when planning expeditions.

Much of this information has come as a result of observations from this seasons' expeditions in the Peak District and Shropshire.

Noise

- Please remind your participants to be quiet on camp sites. We are losing camp sites every year due to noisy and badly behaved groups.
- iPods and speakers should not be taken on expedition.

Keep to footpaths

- If participants are having to climb over gates and fences they are probably not on a public footpath and will be trespassing.
- Always leave gates as they are found. We have had one incident where gates were closed by mistake which prevented sheep coming to low ground in bad weather with disastrous results.
- Remind participants not to sit in the road! Country lanes may appear quiet but people drive very fast on them.

Facilities

- Do not use camp site or other private facilities (e.g. toilets or parking) unless you are a paying customer.

Litter

- All litter must be taken home and not dropped along the way.
- If you are using check point cards or similar you MUST collect them all before leaving the area. This is a much easier task if check points are on roads where possible and appropriate.

Parking

- This year we have had many complaints about inappropriate parking. Please use public car parks not small villages.
- Please do not arrange for a number of parents cars to converge in a village.
- Always ensure that you pay the appropriate parking fees.
- Avoid starting and finishing routes in villages where there is no car park and always avoid parking outside villagers living rooms.

Give a bit back to the community

We take a lot from the rural communities so please give a little back where you can:

- Buy petrol from local garages
- Use local shops
- Pay for car parking
- Support local cafés

Countryside Code

Please ensure that all your participants, volunteers and helpers know the Countryside Code.

For free learning resources please visit: **www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk**

The Duke Of Edinburgh's Award, Second Floor Offices, Carlton House, Mere Green Road, Sutton Coldfield B75 5BS

T: 0121 308 9470 F: 0121 308 5561 E: centralengland@DofE.org www.DofE.org/centralengland