

# RESIDENTIAL TOP TIPS

The DofE Residential section at Gold level is a unique opportunity to develop confidence and skills in an unfamiliar environment – but finding an opportunity that counts is crucial! This flyer will cover some common questions to help make sure you get the best from this exciting section.



## What to do



Activities need to be undertaken with the group as it needs to be a **shared experience**. As such one-to-one activities will not count. While music festivals do not count, community events can be provided provided participants commit to full days of activity and remain with their group. Activities need to be based in learning, activity or service to others or the environment through an **organised group, registered charity or AAP**. You cannot use an activity organised by your own school or part of your curriculum.

### DOES IT COUNT?

Driving schools:	No
Work experience:	No
Music festivals:	No
Charity/community festivals:	Yes
Summer Schools and camps:	Yes

**Aim:** "To inspire participants through a concentrated involvement with people they don't know...and bring alternative views to the challenges they will face. The Residential section broadens their experiences by empowering them to make a difference in a team-based residential setting." DofE Leaders' Handbook (7th edition, P89)

## Where to stay



Residentials need to be undertaken in a group with a minimum of **five** members, with whom you will work towards a shared goal, undertake organised evening activities, and stay with in **shared accommodation**. You must not have met any of these people previously (e.g. Scout camps count if not with your own group).

### DOES IT COUNT?

Home/family/individual stays:	No
With staff known to you:	No
School exchanges:	No
Groups smaller than five:	No
Group camping:	Yes
Dorms:	Yes
With those you spent the day with:	Yes

## Who to ask



As with all sections you will need an **assessor**. They will need to provide personalised comments on your activity.

### DOES IT COUNT?

Certificate only:	No
Relative/teacher known to you:	No
Generic report for all participants:	No
Personalised feedback:	Yes
Assessor who interacted with you:	Yes

If in doubt email your Operations Officer or [southeast@dofe.org](mailto:southeast@dofe.org).

### Still stuck?

[dofe.org/residential-section](https://dofe.org/residential-section) has a list of Residential ideas, a flowchart to check your plan and a link to the AAP Opportunity Finder – all options listed have been checked and approved by DofE! LOs must approve all activities before undertaking.



**YOUTH  
WITHOUT  
LIMITS**



[DofE.org](https://dofe.org)

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