

Sourcing DofE Leaders/helpers within your school

Finding leaders/helpers willing to give up their limited time is increasingly challenging. Here are our top tips to give you some ideas (if you have any of your own please share them with us).

It's not all about expeditions and camping:

Ask people about the DofE and the first thing some will say, "that's about a long walk and camping". When seeking volunteers, dispel this myth and explain there are many ways to get involved, the time commitment is varied depending on role and the DofE is a balanced programme of four sections (five at Gold).

Explain different roles and their time commitment

- **Verifier:** admin-based checking the quality of the centre's awards through eDofE. This is a required role for Directly Licensed Centres.
- **Leader:** gives advice to groups of approximately 20 participants on their programme choices, encourages and oversees progress on eDofE.
- **Section Assessor:** supports a skill, physical or volunteering activity, mentors the participant and produces an Assessor Report at the end. Experience and interest is often the only qualification needed.
- **Expedition Supervisor:** will generally have qualifications (refer to your expedition policy) in the mode of transport, will take

overall legal responsibility for the safety and welfare of teams on expedition.

- **Expedition trainer:** has experience/qualifications in expedition skills, first aid, navigation, camping etc. and is willing to share their knowledge.
- **Expedition Assessor:** will have experience/qualifications in mode of travel and will be accredited as an Assessor. Camping not required!

Ask the whole school staff and associates for support

Many support staff, Governors and PTA members as well as teaching staff will have interesting and varied hobbies that they may wish to share with a young person. Or may have wished they had done their DofE when they were younger, but weren't able to, this is their chance to get involved.

NQTs

Often NQTs will be of an age where they can still achieve Gold, encourage them to become a participant for their own personal development, their volunteer section could be 'being a DofE Leader'. Their NQT CPD funding could be

used to fund their DofE training as these skills and qualifications are very transferable.

Backing from SLT

With SLT's backing for your support team there may be opportunities for financial and/or time recompense for their efforts. Involvement can bring more rewards – greater respect from participants, excellent CV header and tangible examples of an array of transferable skills. Why not ask SLT members to recognise and value this too.

Using current and previous participants:

Participants who have completed Bronze and/or Silver could become mentors for their volunteering section on their next level. Available at set times to help with eDofE functions and able to chase participants to sign on. Past students could be encouraged to come back and support future participants passing on their skills and knowledge.

Parent power

Parents will have interests, expertise and qualifications to lead sections or will be willing to become Leaders.

Gold holder volunteer

A Gold participant volunteers as an eDofE mentor by helping the Bronze group at lunchtimes.



Teacher volunteer

A geography teacher runs a weekly cooking class as an activity for the Skills section.



Governor volunteer

A school Governor also volunteers as a Leader, seen here planning programmes with a Silver group.

