



Course aim:

To equip expedition leaders and expedition support staff with the basic expedition skills needed to support the delivery of DofE expeditions on foot in normal rural, open countryside and forest (for example, normal Bronze expedition terrain). To ensure an understanding of the roles and responsibilities associated with planning and delivering expeditions, including the safety of participants.

DofE Expedition Skills course

Who should do this course?

The course is aimed at those adults (including expedition leaders and expedition support staff) who wish to support DofE expeditions on foot in normal rural, open countryside and forest, but who do not have much practical experience or hold an appropriate qualification.

Course delivery

Two e-learning modules are completed before the course and are available from DofEtraining.org. The DES course is predominantly practical in nature, which will ensure delegates develop their expedition skills with confidence. The course consists of approximately 30 Guided Learning Hours, which includes a combination of theory and practical learning. Courses will include an expedition element, where delegates will complete a day trek carrying full kit. Some courses will include an overnight camping experience.

Supporting expeditions after completing the DES course

Individual Licensed Organisations (LOs)/Approved Activity Providers (AAPs) are responsible for agreeing whether staff have the experience and skills to support expedition groups. Seek approval from the relevant person within your organisation – e.g. the Educational Visits Co-ordinator, Outdoor Education Advisor or Health and Safety Official.

Please note: Completing this course does not imply that adults have been pre-approved to support DofE expeditions; it is one way for LOs/AAPs to make sure adults learn the practical skills needed to support expeditions in a specific expedition environment. The course material doesn't include first aid and LOs/AAPs will need to make sure that their own requirements are met.

This course covers

Supervision skills

- Knowledge of the DofE's Expedition section (through two e-learning modules, completed in advance).

- Expedition planning skills.
- Knowledge of Licensed Organisation procedures.

Hard skills

- Navigation.
- Countryside Code and conservation.
- Cooking and campcraft.
- Personal and group kit.
- Weather.

Next steps

- Other modes of travel.
- Experience.
- Qualifications.

Assessment

This is a DofE-run course and trainers will use a continuous assessment process to ensure that learners cover all of the learning outcomes, which will then be recorded on the course certificate.

Expedition Assessor and Supervisor Training Course (EASTC)

Attend the EASTC if you wish to become an Expedition Supervisor*, accredited Expedition Assessor or a combined Supervisor/Assessor for Bronze expeditions. Expedition Supervisors take responsibility for the health and safety of participants on an expedition. Expedition Assessors confirm that qualifying expeditions have met the DofE's 20 conditions.

*Your LO may specify another similar course and you should check with them their requirements for the Supervisor role.

Course information:

Courses are run throughout the year by DofE Regional/Country Offices. To find out about upcoming dates and prices in your area visit: DofE.org/finder. For more information on DofE training and other courses visit: DofE.org/training. The DofE Expedition Skills web page is DofE.org/des.