



THE D.E.A.S.

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL AWARD

The award programme was first introduced in the United Kingdom in 1956 as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

The **Duke of Edinburgh's Award** is committed to providing for young people an enjoyable, challenging and rewarding programme of personal development, which is of the highest quality and the widest reach. The Ten Key Principles of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award are as under:

1. **Non-Competitive**: The award is a personal challenge and not a competition against others. Each participant's programme is tailor-made to reflect the individual starting point, abilities and interest.
2. **Available to All**: With a commitment to equal opportunities, the award programme is available to all young people who choose to take up its challenge.
3. **Voluntary**: Young people make a free choice to enter the programme and commit their own time to undertake the activities.
4. **Flexible**: Young people design their own programme, which can be geared to their choice and personal circumstances and also to local provision. They may enter for whichever level of award best suits them, and may take as long as they wish to complete an award.
5. **Balanced**: By choosing activities in each of four different sections, participants undertake a balanced and wide ranging programme.
6. **Progressive**: At each level, the Award Programme demands more time and an increasing degree of commitment and responsibility from the participant.
7. **Achievements focused**: Before starting an activity, young people are encouraged to set their own goals. If they aim for those goals and show improvement they will achieve their Award.
8. **Marathon, not a sprint**: The Award demands persistence and commitment and cannot be completed in a short burst of enthusiasm.

9. **Personal Development.** The Award is a programme of personal and social development. The value to young people is dependent on personal commitment, the learning process and the quality of the experience.

10. **Enjoyable:** Young people and helpers should find participation enjoyable and satisfying

The three Level, four Section format of the Award Programme makes it very versatile. It can be adapted so that it's relevant to any young person, anywhere in the world.

THE THREE LEVELS:

The Programme is based around three Levels, each successive one requiring a greater degree of commitment.

- BRONZE is for those over 14. The minimum period of participation to gain this Award is 6 months
- SILVER is for those over 15. The minimum period of participation to gain this Award is 12 months
- GOLD is for those over 16. The minimum period of participation to gain this Award is 18 months

It is possible to start at any Level – some participants work their way through all three, while others start at Silver or Gold.

FOUR SECTIONS.....:

To gain an Award, participants must complete activities in four Sections for a specified minimum period of time. There is an additional requirement of a Residential Project at Gold Level. Participants decide what they would like to do for each Section.

Service:

Participants engage with their community and discover the impact they can have through:

- Community service projects
- Conservation work
- Voluntary service in hospitals or community homes
- More specialised training such as lifesaving, first aid or rescue services.

Adventurous Journey :

The Adventurous Journey is about adventure and discovery. Participants develop an understanding of the environment, and the importance of working together in a team with a common purpose. It can be on foot, by bicycle, boat or on horseback. Training, preparation, self sufficiency and self-reliance are the key elements.

Skills:

The Skills Section is about developing personal interests and learning practical skills. There are almost limitless possibilities to choose from. There is no set standard that participants must reach: they set their own goals and measure their progress against them. Some examples are music, arts and craft, flying, gliding, motor sports, dance etc.

Physical Recreation :

By undertaking some form of organized and regular physical activity, participants show perseverance and improve their fitness. Their goal is to record their individual progress. Most team and individual sports are included, such as football, athletics, martial arts, animal sports, adventure sports, fitness activities, archery etc.

Residential Project:

This is only a requirement at Gold Level. It aims to broaden experience through living and working with others (who are not everyday companions). The project takes place over a period of five consecutive days. It requires resilience, adaptability and consideration for others.

It is recommend that the participants undertake regular activity for each section, and regular activity is approximately 1 hour per week. At Bronze they need to undertake 2 sections for 3 months, and the 3rd section for 6 months, at Silver as a direct entrant they need to undertake 2 sections for 6 months, and the 3rd section for 12 months – if they already have the Bronze they need to do all three sections for 6 months. At Gold as a direct entrant they need to undertake 2 sections for 12 months, and the 3rd section for 18 months – if they already have the Silver they need to do all three sections for 12 months

	Physical Recreation	Skills	Service	Plus...	Adventurous Journey
Bronze	3 months	3 months	3 months	All participants must do an extra 3 months in either Physical Recreation or Skills or Service	2 days + 1 night
Silver	6 months	6 months	6 months	Non-Bronze holders must do an extra 6 months in either Physical Recreation or Skills or Service	3 days + 2 nights
Gold	12 months	12 months	12 months	Non-Silver holders must do an extra 6 months in either Physical Recreation or Skills or Service	4 days + 3 nights

WHAT OTHERS SAY.....:

"The Award is not just about words it's about action: it is about changing young people's lives through practical learning. There is nothing to beat human contact and hands-on experience; because if history teaches us anything it is that mutual understanding leads to mutual acceptance and mutual respect."

HM The Queen:

"Young people are our future. Developing them to their full potential is a top priority. One practical way to develop this huge reservoir of talent is through participation in the Award."

Nelson Mandela, Patron-in-Chief, The President's Award in South Africa:

"In an age where so much may be taken for granted, our young participants are challenged to appreciate their individual talents and gifts - to fulfil their personal goals to the fullest extent in a way that benefits others as well as themselves. As a society, I have no doubt that we will gain as these young people mature into adulthood, ready to use the experiences and wonderful life skills that they have gained during their participation in the Award."

Mary McAleese, President of Ireland and Patron of the President's Award in Ireland:

"It is indeed a privilege to serve as trustee of the Award. For young people, the first impact in life is through role models and goals which are life giving. These goals must be positive and have the dignity and integrity to emulate. We need to build more young people based on the solid principles of life. The President's Award is one such programme that does this."

Lady Justice Mary Ang'awa, Kenyan High Court judge and trustee of The President's Award in Kenya:

"The NYAA (National Youth Achievement Award) Program is one of many programs that support and complement our schools' Co-Curricular Activities (CCAs) and Community Involvement Program (CIP). It fosters discipline and character and promotes confidence and teamwork. It also creates opportunities for character development and self-discovery through its four mandatory sections namely service, adventurous journey, skills and physical recreation. Participating in the Award gives you good exposure and enriches lives, and I am confident the experience and memory stays with participants for life."

Masagos Zulkifli BMM, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education, Singapore:

"I am pleased to see that the NYAA (**National Youth Achievement Award**) Programme has consistently delivered sustainable programmes and projects that add value to the local, regional and global community, and provides opportunities and platforms for our youth leaders – especially our Gold Award holders – to further develop their passion and interests, engage in relevant activities, and take on greater leadership roles in different areas of society."

***HOW WAS THE AWARD STARTED??.....:**

The Award Programme grew out of the efforts of three men, who were responding to a common anxiety about how best to engage young people. After the war there was a growing concern about the development of boys, due to the gap between leaving school at 15 and entering National Service at 18.

The Award is Launched in the UK:

Against this backdrop The Duke of Edinburgh's Award was set up in 1956, by **HRH Prince Philip**, **Kurt Hahn**, a German educationalist, and **Lord Hunt**, leader of the first successful ascent of Everest.

Based on the philosophy of Hahn, founder and headmaster of Gordonstoun School in Scotland, the Programme was designed around four sections: Rescue & Public Service Training, the Expedition, Pursuits & Projects, and Fitness.

Although initially only available to boys aged between 14 and 18, there was great demand for a similar scheme for girls, and this was launched in September 1958. The Programme continued to evolve over subsequent decades, until 1980. At this point, the upper age limit was extended to 25, and the Programme took on its current four Section format of: Service, Adventurous Journey, Skills and Physical Recreation.

The Award Goes Global:

As soon as the Award was launched there was great interest from outside the UK. It spread initially through the enthusiasm of international schools, but soon youth organisations across the British Commonwealth were running the Programme.

By 1971 the Award operated in 31 countries; this had increased to 48 countries by 1989 as it spread beyond the boundaries of the Commonwealth. Such rapid expansion led to the formation of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association (IAA) in 1988. At the same time, the overall title of The International Award for Young People was adopted to describe the Award worldwide.

Many countries adopted different names for their Award Programme particularly those outside the Commonwealth. These different names still exist today. The main thing to remember is that whatever the name, the Award's the same!

An Award for All Young People:

Global expansion over the last 50 years has enabled the Award to reach more and more young people. Today there are over 120 countries operating the Award – 60 of these on a national basis. However, the Programme is now expanding in other ways, targeting those who have not previously had opportunities to develop themselves. Recent Award projects around the world have focused on involving young offenders, those with disabilities, street kids and aboriginal communities. The impact of the Award on many of these young people is extraordinary: it transforms their lives.¹

The Award has come a long way since 1956, when it was launched in the UK. It is as relevant as ever and has something to offer every young person in the world, wherever they are, and whatever their circumstances.
