



“Challenge yourself of experience life from a different perspective.”

Gold Residential Project

The Residential Project, completed only at Gold Level, aims to broaden participants' horizons through involvement with others in a residential setting.

For Gold Award Participants only

Purpose

To broaden your horizons and open your eyes to the world!

What It's About

The Gold Residential Project offers Gold Award Participants unique experiences that truly broaden horizons and challenges their outlook.

At the heart of the Gold Residential Project is the undertaking of purposeful experience with people who are not their usual companions, working towards a common goal! Adding to this, the young person is also outside of their usual place of residence, often in an unfamiliar environment.

It is hoped that the Gold Residential Project rewards Gold Award Participants with a sense of personal achievement, enhanced social connection with new and interesting people, and a truly life changing experience!

Requirements

For this Section, Participants must:

1. Be undertaking the Gold Award.
2. Undertake shared purposeful activity which provides opportunities for broadening their interests and experience.
3. Reside away from their usual place of residence for a total period of **no less than five days and four nights**.
4. Be in the company of others who are, in the majority, not their usual companions.
5. Undergo briefing and/or training (if required) prior to or during the residential period so that they are able to contribute fully to the activity and derive full benefit from the experience.
6. Undertake activities substantially in their own time. This means that whilst some activity may take place within school, university or work hours, most of it should occur outside of these scheduled times.
7. Be a residential experience of the young person's own choice, freely made and without any financial or material gain, other than assistance with transport, accommodation and/or meals (please refer to item 1.5 of this Handbook, "Voluntary").

In exceptional circumstances, the commitment may be spread over two separate occasions. In these situations, the same activity must be pursued over both occasions and must total 5 days of activity, and take place in the same 12 month period.

Assessment

Assessment is undertaken by a suitably experienced and/or qualified Assessor who has been nominated by the Award Centre or identified by the Participant, and approved by their Award Leader, on behalf of the Award Centre prior to undertaking the project. The Assessor must be contactable during the length of the project and will most likely require contact in the time leading up to the project. At a minimum, the Assessor must have the ability to observe the Participant at intervals throughout the Gold Residential Project. In most circumstances an Assessor should not be an immediate family member.

Assessors both help Participants set goals for their chosen activity(s) and assess whether or not a Participant has undertaken the required regular effort and has strived to achieve their goals.

Group activities are to be assessed with regard to each individual's contribution to planning, execution and completion.

On arrival at the residential venue, the Participant should remind their Assessor that the project will form part of a Gold Duke of Ed Award.

Assessors are responsible for writing the final assessment report and signing off the Section which they are assessing. Each Participant is to be monitored and assessed by their Assessor for:

1. Effort
2. Perseverance
3. Progress.

A Participant satisfies the requirements of the Gold Residential Project Section if the Assessor is convinced that:

- The Participant's commitment was substantially in their own time outside of school, university or work hours.
- The Participant has demonstrated commitment with respect to:
 - their personal standards
 - relationships with others
 - responsibility accepted and developed
 - initiative and general progress during the residential period.
- Minimum time requirement has been met.

Steps

1. Consider what project you would like to undertake. It may be that you are interested in a project that is overseas, and requires a financial investment. Make sure you choose your activity wisely based on your own personal circumstances.
2. Discuss this with your Award Leader.
3. Make enquiries with the organization you wish to work with, and talk to them about counting your involvement as a Gold Residential Project towards your Gold Duke of Ed Award.
4. With the guidance of your Award Leader, identify an Assessor within the organization where you will undertake your residency. This person must be available to assess you throughout your project.
5. Set yourself challenging and realistic goals, in consultation with your Assessor(s). It is important that you do this before you start your activity, so you know what you are working towards.
6. Plan your project. You may need to think about how to get there, suitable attire and so on.
7. Undertake your project.
8. You may consider writing a diary or documenting your experience in some way, through photos or video.
9. During your residency you may like to review your experiences and activities with your Assessor.
10. Once you have completed your residency, ask your Assessor to complete their final assessment in your Record Book.
11. Remember, your Award Leader and Assessor are there to guide you and help with any questions you have along the way, so don't be afraid to ask!
12. Once you have completed all your Sections, submit your Record Book to your Award Leader

for final Assessment of your Award.

Ideas

Here are some ideas for the Residential Project Section to discuss with your Participants. Remember, this list is a guide only and is not exhaustive.

Personal training courses

- Residential language courses
- Leadership training
- Skills development (e.g. music, art, craft)
- Ecology study course
- Youth camps
- Youth parliaments

Environment and conservation projects

- Environmental clean up
- Volunteer work with national parks
- Research on habitats and ecosystems
- Restoration of buildings

Service to other people and communities

- Provision of facilities
- Construction projects
- Assisting as a leader at a camp for young people
- Working with a local or an overseas aid charity
- Working in a care home or hospital

Activity based

- Outdoor adventure courses
- Sports coaching course
- Sport skills development
- Crew member on board a Tall Ship