

## Fundamental Principles, Operational Principles and Code of Practice

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### 1. Fundamental Principles

- a. The criterion for gaining an Award is individual improvement through persistence and achievement, taking into account the participant's initial capabilities and without any element of competition between participants.
- b. Participation is entirely voluntary, and the individual participant has a completely free choice in the selection of locally available options within the four Sections.
- c. There is no discrimination against participation on grounds of sex, race, religion or political affiliation.

### 2. Operational Principles

- a. Participants must be between the ages of 14 and 24. Persons age 13, whose peer group is age 14, may also pursue the Award.
- b. The basic structure of the Award Programme consists of the four mandatory Sections: Voluntary Service (to learn how to give useful service to others), Adventurous Journey (to encourage a spirit of adventure and discovery whilst undertaking a journey in a group), Skills (to encourage the development of personal interests, creativity or practical skills) and Physical Recreation (to encourage participation in physical recreation and improvement of performance).
- c. The three levels of Award are: Bronze (for those over the age of 14), Silver (for those over the age of 15) and Gold (for those over the age of 16).
- d. The minimum period of participation for direct entrants to qualify for an Award is six months for a Bronze, 12 months for Silver and 18 months for Gold.

- e. At Gold level participants undertake a Gold Residential Project (to broaden experience through involvement with others in a residential setting) away from home.

### 3. Code of Practice

- a. To maintain comparable standards of operating practice as advised by the Foundation
- b. To manage the Award fairly and impartially in all respects.
- c. To ensure that the Award is open to all subject to age parameters.
- d. To allow participants from any other Award Operator to continue their Award
- e. Undertake to recognise the validity of achievements entered in Record Books issued by other Award Operators or to accept the electronic transfer of a participant's records through the Online Record Book system or equivalent, in so far as it is possible under national law.
- f. To manage the Award under the Operational Guidelines approved in 2003 and revised in 2018.