



DofE Expeditions with Somerset Adventures



About us

Somerset Adventures is an Adventurous Activity company based in Taunton. Somerset Adventures is an AAP (Approved Activity Provider) for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme, running expeditions for all levels of the award. We have years of experience in running expeditions of all kinds, and provide DofE expeditions of all sizes for schools, youth groups and individuals. All our instructors are fully qualified and DBS checked and we pride ourselves in providing quality equipment for your teams. Somerset Adventures is fully insured and is licensed by AALA.

We can provide the expedition section for your students in its entirety, or provide the elements required to assist your staff – training, supervising or assessing. We can provide expeditions to areas anywhere in the country.

What makes Somerset Adventures different?

- We believe in supplying high quality equipment for your teams. We provide ample supplies of all the required group kit.
- We don't do 'sausage factory' expeditions. We hate seeing groups following nose to tail across the countryside. With Somerset Adventures we support each team in coming up with their own individual route, using enough start and finish points so that all the teams are well spread out through each day of the expedition, whilst still able to meet each other and socialise on the same campsite at night.
- We have a great team of instructors. All our instructors are highly qualified, experienced and skilled at getting your teams prepared, trained and equipped to get the most out of their expedition. Training is done in small groups – an instructor per team when out practicing navigation and on expedition, or a maximum of 2 teams per instructor for indoor class sessions.

DofE Expeditions

Somerset Adventures can support walking, cycling and canoeing expeditions.

Training

Our preferred format is to deliver the training over two or three intensive days. We will cover all the required topics laid out by the DofE scheme in addition to a substantial walk for the purpose of practical map reading and navigation practice.

The training provided will include:

- First aid & emergency procedures
- Awareness of risk and health/safety planning
- Campcraft, equipment and hygiene
- Food and cooking
- Country, highway and water sports codes
- Observation, recording and presentation
- Teambuilding
- Proficiency in the mode of travel

Additional training days may be necessary, for example for canoeing expeditions, and this would be discussed at the time of booking. Additional navigation training can also be arranged.

The Practice Expedition

We believe that a practice expedition is a valuable experience in the build up to your assessed expedition. For a Bronze expedition this would take place over 2 days (1 night), and a minimum of 2 days and 2 nights for Silver or Gold (we prefer to have a full-length practice wherever possible). The practice is an opportunity for testing out the equipment and learning all the skills needed with training and supervision on hand - because when you do your assessed expedition you will be entirely self reliant (although with ample supervision for your safety). The practice takes place in a different location but similar terrain to the assessed expedition.

The Assessed Expedition

During the assessed expedition we provide a team of expert expedition supervisors – ensuring the safety of the expedition through remote supervision and checkpoints. We will also provide an assessor whose role it is to ensure that the conditions and standards of the expedition section are met. During the expedition your teams will be navigating themselves independently and carrying all their own kit and looking after themselves for the whole duration. It is this freedom and independence that makes the DofE expedition experience so special.

The presentation

After the expedition you must deliver a presentation about your experiences and including details of aim of your expedition. We encourage this to be done in school since the presentation is an excellent opportunity to develop public speaking skills, perhaps in an assembly where the upcoming year groups can be inspired by your experiences. If desired however Somerset Adventures can oversee the presentations as well.

Your expedition with Somerset Adventures

Before starting the expedition section you must already be registered for their DofE award. The other sections of the award (the Physical, Expedition and Skill sections) are overseen by your DofE leader (eg at school).

Somerset Adventures will look after all aspects of the Expedition section, supplying all the necessary training, the practice expedition and supervision for the assessed expedition. We will also supply an assessor for your expedition. We will supply all the required group equipment (maps, compasses, tents, stoves, first aid kit).

You will need to supply their own personal kit and food for your expedition. We can direct you, if necessary, towards low-cost sources of personal equipment such as the Youth Equipment Stores run by the county council based at Hestercombe.

Costs

The costs of providing the expedition section will vary depending on the format of training agreed and the number of students. We can cater for groups of all sizes – from a single team to expeditions for over 100 students. Please contact us to discuss your requirements and to receive a quote.

Contact us for more information, or to book your expedition now

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Somerset Adventures is registered with the Adventurous Activities Licensing Service as licensed to provide specified activities under the following headings: Kayaking, Open Canoeing, Improvised Rafting, Caving, Climbing, Hill Walking & Mountaineering. Licence details can be confirmed by calling The Licensing Service Tel 02920 755715