The Expedition section process

This flowchart gives an overview of the steps involved for a young person to complete their Expedition section. More detailed information about each stage is set out in the DofE Expedition Guide.

Team: Participants form a team of between four and seven - eight for modes of travel which have tandem.

Aim and mode of travel: The team will agree their expedition aim and from that their mode of travel. At this stage participants will often decide on likely expedition environments to help direct their training and practice expeditions.

Training: Participants will complete the appropriate level of the Expedition Training Framework, mode of travel training and any other training required by the Supervisor (representing the Licensed Organisation or AAP) to be signed off as competent to successfully and safely undertake their expedition. Participants will also begin physical and fitness training for their practice and qualifying expeditions.

Paperwork: Before undertaking expeditions, participants will need to complete the necessary notification paper work required by their Licensed Organisation, AAP and the DofE. Participants considering undertaking expeditions outside of the UK or who would like a variation should have these in hand at this stage.

Practice expeditions: Participants must undertake sufficient practice expeditions to enable them to travel safely and complete their qualifying expedition. Practice expeditions will be followed by reflection and additional training to fully prepare participants for their qualifying expedition.

Planning and preparation: The team will ensure they have everything in place for their qualifying expedition including notification paperwork, approvals, access, project investigation techniques and presentation.

Supervisor’s pre-expedition check: The Expedition Supervisor will conduct a check on all the equipment that the team will need and use during their expedition, ensuring it is fit for purpose.

First contact and Assessor’s pre-expedition check: The Accredited Assessor will discuss the proposed route with the team, provide any local information that may be helpful and once agreed, approve the route. The Assessor will meet the team in the expedition area either the day before or on the morning of the expedition. The Assessor will ask the team to confirm their training, chat through their expedition and agree their contract. The supporting adults and DofE team(s) will all review and agree expedition policies, the supervision plan and emergency procedures.

Qualifying expedition: Once fully prepared the team will undertake their expedition, which will be remotely supervised and observed by their DofE Accredited Assessor. The Supervisor and Assessor will meet the team from time to time, keeping intrusion to a minimum, ensuring the team’s safety and that the DofE’s 20 conditions are being met.

Debrief: At the end of the expedition the Assessor will conduct an oral debrief with the team. This is an opportunity to congratulate the team and help them to review their expedition.

Presentation: At some point after the expedition, all participants will deliver a presentation, in any medium, of their expedition which covers their aims, experiences and outcomes.

Assessment: The Accredited Assessor should provide their report for eDofE following the qualifying expedition and reports should also be provided by a person who saw their presentation.