



Links with the
Duke of Edinburgh's Award
A Handbook for Participants

AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE CADETS



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Introduction

This handbook has been written for you, the Australian Air Force Cadet member, to show you how you can use the activities you do with the AAFC to help you earn The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award, and give you the recognition you deserve for these voluntary activities you choose to do in your free time.

The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award is considered to be a top youth achievement award. The award complements the Home Training a cadet receives, by encompassing a broader range of activities and skills. It can therefore provide you with excellent recognition of your achievements, both within the AAFC and outside.

On achieving each level of the Award, you receive a certificate and badge. Cadets and staff may wear their Duke of Edinburgh’s Award on their AAFC service dress uniform. Participation by cadets and junior staff is encouraged from all levels of our organisation.



Duke of Edinburgh
Gold



Duke of Edinburgh
Silver



Duke of Edinburgh
Bronze

The Award's Mission Statement

To provide young Australians aged between 14 and 25, with the opportunity to achieve personal goals through a structured program which acknowledges their involvement in non-competitive voluntary activities, which encourage personal growth, enterprise, and a broad range of life skills, as well as a sense of social awareness and responsibility.



A summary of the Award section, levels and minimum requirements is shown in the table below. (Refer to www.dukeofed.com.au for further information.)

	Bronze Age: 14 years +	Silver Age: 15 years +	Gold Age: 16 years +
Service	3 months	6 months	12 months
Major Section	All Participants must complete an additional 3 months in either physical recreation, skill or service.	Participants who have not achieved a Bronze Award must complete an additional 6 months in either physical recreation, skill or service.	Participants who have not achieved a Silver Award must complete an additional 6 months in either physical recreation, skill or service.
Skill	3 months	6 months	12 months
Physical Recreation	3 months	6 months	12 months
Adventurous Journey	Preliminary training and 1 practice trip and qualifying trip – 2 days + 1 night	Preliminary training and 2 practice trips and qualifying trip – 3 days + 2 nights	Preliminary training and 2 practice trips and qualifying trip – 4 days + 3 nights
Residential Project			5 days + 4 nights
Minimum age to finish	14 years, 6 months	14 years, 6 months	Silver Award holders: 17 years Direct Entrants: 17 years, 6 months

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Definitions

Service	Is an activity that you choose to do for the primary purpose of benefitting others or the environment.
Skill	Is an activity that you choose to do for the primary purpose of gaining or increasing your own knowledge using mental rather than physical ability.
Physical Recreation	Break a sweat and improve your physical fitness. The primary reason for doing the activity is an improvement in your own physical fitness.
Adventurous Journey	Discover your sense of adventure and bond with your mates. A journey into an unfamiliar environment with a group – bushwalking, canoeing, cycling, horse riding and urban adventure – staying overnight and testing your resilience.
Residential Project	An additional section for Gold only. Broaden your horizons and open your eyes to the world. In Australia or anywhere else around the globe, limited only by your imagination.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Definitions

The 5 Sections of the Award	Australian Air Force Cadets
Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundraising, community support, etc • Assistance to RSLs and other community organisations
Skill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Training • Flying – glider/powered • Firearm safety and marksmanship • Band • Model making • Leadership • Instructing
Physical Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drill – DCB/DCP/DCA
Adventurous Journey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bivouacs • Activities run by Field Training Flights • Survival training (adventure training Award) • National Field Craft Competition
Residential Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion courses as an instructor • Flying Training Courses • General Service Training, specialist training • International Air Cadet Exchange

Min. AAFC Duration	Additional requirements information for The Duke of Edinburgh's award
Ongoing	Participation with local RSLs, Legacy, assisting the community with a specific project or task, fundraising.
Ongoing	<p>Ensure the minimum time requirement is being met for the appropriate level of the award being undertaken.</p> <p>A Participant needs to ensure regular participation during the time period for the level being attempted.</p>
Ongoing	<p>Ensure the Minimum Time requirement is being met for the appropriate level of the award being undertaken.</p> <p>With inter-squadron competitions, they need to be regular and practice or training for the event can also count.</p>
<p>Weekend, 3 or 4 days</p> <p>7 day camp</p> <p>5 day camp</p>	<p>Best for Bronze practice and test expeditions. Longer bivouacs can be used for silver and gold. Gold participants must participate in the planning process of the trip. All practice trips must be the same as the final trip. e.g. – bush walking, horse riding, bicycling, canoeing etc. National Field Craft Competition can be used for Bronze or Silver awards. Gold – Captains only.</p>
<p>4 – 7 days</p> <p>7 – 14 days</p> <p>7 days</p> <p>21 days</p>	<p>Gold only – duration must be at least 5 days and 4 nights. Cannot count a skill and residential project together. 5 days – residential project, and then the rest of camp can then be used as skill or any other section.</p>

Registration

Register your interest with your squadron DoEA Coordinator or Training Officer.

The Coordinator or Training Officer will then direct the participant to the Duke of Edinburgh's website and will assist the Participant, if needed, in registering for the online record book (IORB).

If you are under 18 years of age, parental permission is required. Once parental permission has been obtained and registration been paid, you are on your way to completing your Award.

www.dukeofed.com.au



AAFC participant receiving her Gold award at Government House.

For more information

Squadron Duke of Edinburgh's Award Coordinator or Training Officer

Wing Duke of Edinburgh's Award Coordinator

Staff Officer Ground Training

Operation's Liaison Officer – Headquarters AAFC

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6 WING	deacoord.6wg@aafc.org.au
7 WING	deacoord.7wg@aafc.org.au
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www.dukeofed.com.au



Duke of Edinburgh
Gold



Duke of Edinburgh
Silver



Duke of Edinburgh
Bronze

Message from National Chairman

Duke of Edinburgh Award Australia

The Australian Air Force Cadets and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Australia have a proud history of providing our youth with an opportunity to extend themselves and acquire new skills and a better self understanding.

Specifically, the AAFC strives to develop amongst its cadets leadership qualities such as initiative, self reliance and perseverance and has for several decades utilised the Duke of Edinburgh's Award four part program to complement its unique training program.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Australia (The Duke of Ed) is a leading youth development organisation that empowers young Australians, aged 14-25, to explore their full potential – regardless of their location or circumstance.

Each young person who takes part in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award learns or extends a skill, improves their physical wellbeing, volunteers in their community and goes on an adventurous journey, supported by a network of adult mentors.

Through this challenging journey of self-discovery, Award participants learn skills and have experiences that equip and empower them to:

- **Achieve their personal best;**
- **Learn to take responsibility for their goals and choices;**
- **Become connected to and actively engaged within their immediate community;**
- **Make a real difference to society through their positive contributions and involvement;**
- **Learn to persevere and overcome barriers.**

The success of the Award program is its balanced program of four activities, the flexible and open choice of activities, achieving self-set goals and the perseverance over time.

Completing a Duke of Edinburgh Award earns young people recognition and at the Silver and Gold levels, further opportunity in terms of studies, community involvement, leadership roles, travel and career. With over 35,000 young people currently doing the Award in Australia, supported by over 100,000 adult volunteers, the Duke of Edinburgh would very much like to see a greater number of Australian Air Force Cadets taking up the challenge and achieving their Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Messages from past participants about completing the Award

It allowed me to challenge myself and it wasn't related to my rank in Cadets...

I got my first job because my employer was impressed that I completed my Gold and it showed him that I could stick to something and see it through to completion.

It was fun meeting different people and learning more about myself.

I thought going to Government House was really special, especially to receive my award in front of so many people...

It's another badge I can wear on my uniform and it looks good...



AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE CADETS
Cadets – Air Force's Future