

DofE Temporary Changes – Covid19

Advice for completing the volunteering, physical and skills sections

This document provides advice on completing the physical, skill and volunteering sections. Many of you will be unable to participate in your first-choice activity due to lockdown restrictions. The DofE have adjusted the award scheme rules to help you to complete.

This is a summary of the **temporary changes** DofE have introduced to help you complete on time:

- Participants can now **volunteer for family members** – e.g. mentoring or coaching younger siblings or caring for elderly relatives. As parents cannot be your assessor, think carefully about collecting evidence and who to ask to assess the section.
- Participants can now **change activities more than once** – time spent on previous activities will still count. You will need an assessor report for both activities though.
- **Timescales** - you can now choose to do your section activities less regularly, but for a longer period – so instead of doing an hour each week, you could think about doing two hours every other week if that fits better with your chosen activity. The activity must still be spread across the number of months you've chosen to spend on that section but you could do 4 hours per month on one day.
- **Residential** – this section can now be run with just four participants. The residential experience can be split over two weekends if necessary, but these must be within one year. Participants should arrive for dinner on the Friday evening and not leave before 3pm on Sunday. It should be the same type of activity each weekend, but can be with different people. Ideas here: <https://www.dofe.org/opportunity-finder/opportunity-for-dofe-participant/>

In some respects, this is the perfect time to start one of your sections, the DofE requirements have never been more flexible! The link below provides some example **activities that can be completed at home**.

<https://www.dofe.org/dofewithadifference/activities>

The DofE have also provided some useful FAQs for participants:

<https://www.dofe.org/coronavirus/faqs-participants>

It is also worth checking the opportunity finder if you're still struggling for ideas:

<https://www.dofe.org/opportunity-finder/opportunity-for-dofe-participant/>

Here are some tips if you can't find someone to be your assessor, though I'm sure Princethorpe Staff (for example your tutor) will happily help you out:

<https://www.dofe.org/dofewithadifference/assessors>

Well done to all DofE participants for your commitment to the scheme in the current climate.

Please refer to the electronic assessor report guide illustrating how you can get your award signed off during lockdown conditions.