Duke of Edinburgh FAQs 2026

What do I need to bring?
Blackland Farm Outdoor Centre supply group equipment for your expedition (tents / stoves and gas / maps and compasses / group first aid kit / group shelter). You only need to bring personal equipment, clothing, and medication. See our 'Letter to Participants' for an in-depth kit list.

Can I borrow equipment?
Blackland Farm Outdoor Centre has a small supply of spare rucksacks, sleeping bags, and roll mats. If you need to borrow any of this please talk to your DofE leader or email 'dofe@blacklandfarm.org'.

Can I use my own equipment?
Yes - You are welcome to use your own equipment (tent/stove etc). Our assessors will check and advise if it is suitable for your expedition. Any stoves must be gas and **not** liquid fuel (methylated spirit / petrol etc)

What footwear do I need?
We recommend you wear leather or textile walking boots (with ankle support). Trainers might be acceptable, but we advise any footwear has a thick sole, ankle support, and is waterproof.

What happens if I'm missing any equipment on the day?
Blackland Farm Outdoor Centre has a small supply of rucksacks/roll mats/sleeping bags. If you're missing anything else, talk to your DofE leader before your expedition.

What food should I bring on expedition?
You will discuss food and nutrition during your training. Any food should be 'shelf stable' (not stored in a fridge / freezer). You should also stay away from food in glass jars, tins, and anything that can pop.

Where do your expeditions take place?
We run expeditions all over the country, from large Bronze expeditions in the Ashdown Forest, to smaller Gold expeditions in North Wales.

Can I bring my phone / listen to music?
Blackland Farm Outdoor Centre recommends your phone is switched off and in your rucksack for the duration of your expedition. We cannot accept responsibility if your phone gets lost or damaged during your expedition.

We recommend you bring a disposable or digital camera to take photos and evidence for your team goal.

What happens if I can't make my school's expedition dates?

We run open expeditions in the summer holidays - you'll find these here (Link to Open exped dates)

Are your instructors qualified?
Our instructors and assessors are suitably experienced and qualified for the environments they work in. They also all hold a first aid qualification, an Enhanced DBS certificate, and have completed the Duke of Edinburgh EASTC.

Do you run accessible expeditions?
Our expeditions are open to all, and our staff are experienced and work with a wide range of participants and groups. If you have any more questions regarding this, please email 'dofe@blacklandfarm.org'

What if I get injured on expedition?
Our staff are all first aid qualified and will support you through your expedition. If you are unable to complete your expedition, we will discuss ways to support you through the next steps and how to finish your award.

What if I can't complete the qualifying expedition?
If you can't complete your Qualifying expedition, you will be deferred. Our staff will discuss the next steps with you, and support you on how to finish your award.

What facilities do the campsites have?
At Bronze and Silver, campsites will have water access and toilets.
At Gold, campsites will be more basic. You might also be wild camping. If this is the case, your supervisor will cover water collection and toileting on your training.

What happens if extreme weather is forecast?
The expedition will usually go ahead - you should have been trained on suitable clothing to bring and wear on expedition. If Blackland Farm Outdoor Centre cancels an expedition due to extreme weather, we will offer alternative dates. If you cannot make these, we will offer you a refund.

Will I be sharing a tent?
Yes - You might be sharing with (up to) 2 people.
We will work with your school to ensure any tent sharing is in line with school policies.

How much water do I need?
You will need to be able to carry 2 litres of water. Your assessors and supervisors will have water refill points available throughout the expedition.

Do I need to bring money?
The Duke of Edinburgh expedition requirements states - 'Participants must be self sufficient'. You will not have an opportunity to spend money during the expedition, but there might be an opportunity to buy an ice cream when you finish.

What happens if someone needs to contact me during expedition?
Blackland Farm Outdoor Centre has a 24hr duty number. If you need to contact a participant on an expedition, please call your school or group leader first who will then contact us. If you're on an open expedition, you will be given this number directly and the team will put you in contact with the correct expedition.

How will I be safe?
Every group will be trained to operate in their expedition environment. They are also supplied with an emergency contact card and 2 emergency phone numbers. It is for this reason we recommend your phone is switched off and in your bag to preserve battery. Groups might also have trackers if we deem it suitable.
Our Course Directors and supervisors also create a supervision plan for each day to ensure groups are safe and meeting the Duke of Edinburgh expedition requirements.

What happens if you damage equipment?
We will charge for any Blackland Farm Outdoor Centre equipment that is damaged or lost due to negligence. We will not charge if equipment is damaged from wear and tear, adverse weather, etc.

When will my report be uploaded?
Your expedition assessors report should be uploaded within 2 weeks of the expedition end date. If you cannot see it on your eDofE account email dofe@blacklandfarm.org.

If you have any questions or concerns about your expedition, please feel free to email dofe@blacklandfarm.org.