

The Boys' Brigade Wolverhampton Battalion.

The DofE Expedition / Venture Weekend Training Course.

7th - 9th May 2010.

From Dave Briscoe. Battalion DofE Advisor.

Dear DofE Participant & Parent/Guardian.

As from the success of the last few years, I am planning to hold another training course for the above Expedition / Venture Awards.

This will be open to any lad or girl within your group who is eligible to take part at whatever stage or section. Please note that it is open to new candidates as well as those who are already participating within the above awards.

Big Change This Year

This year the Battalion Expedition Training Team & I have decided that the format of the Expedition training course has been changed & this year we will be running a weekend course only & not the theory day as in past years. We feel that we would like to get out of the "classroom environment" & out more into the great outdoors with practical hands on training.

The Plan for 2010

This year again we will be holding a Training Weekend Courses at Tenbury Wells in Worcestershire. One of the reasons for doing this is that we are now no longer allowed to hold training venture & assessment expeditions in the same location.

The plan being that this year we will hold the Training Weekend at Tenbury Wells over the 7th – 9th May 2010 & then following up in the autumn with a Bronze Assessments at The Boyne Estate. Burwarton. Bridgnorth. Shropshire. It is planned that this be over the weekend of the 16th-17th October 2010.

Other dates for Silver & Gold Training / Assessments have been booked through the year & a copy of these dates are available.

The 2010 Bronze / Silver Expedition Training Course.

As stated this will take place over the weekend of the 7th-9th May 2010. The location is Birchfield, Upper Rochford, Tenbury Wells. Worcestershire. WR15 8SR. This is not a new area for myself as the land owners Mr & Mrs Arnold are very good friends of mine & I have run DofE Training Courses & Business Development Teamwork Courses on their land for a number of years. It is with great pleasure that Mr & Mrs Arnold have kindly consented for us to use their land for The Wolverhampton & Shropshire BB Battalion of which we must be very thankful.

About Birchfield.

The area is set in 38 acres of rough pastureland with limited use of sheep in some fields. Mr Arnold just loves the countryside & his idea is to let it all go back to its natural environment. Within the area the land drops down into a valley with a stream that runs into three pools. Over the winter a new “hide” has been constructed overlooking one of the pools for various bird life & also looking onto a distant bank where a family of local badgers have been living now for a few years. It’s great to watch the cubs running around as the sunsets over the hill.

The camping area is on a north facing grassed slight slope that is well drained & offers some lovely views over the Worcestershire landscape looking towards The Cleve Hills on the Shropshire border. An area will be designated for a bonfire on the Saturday night.

Within the area we have the use of a very large covered decked barbecue building that is ideal for undercover training sessions & for wet weather alternatives. Walking around the area is ideal with gentle rolling hills on both road & country footpaths that make it ideal for Bronze & Silver Expedition Training.

We must remember that “Birchfield House” of which parts date back to the 1550, is the family home of Mr & Mrs Arnold, thus we must respect at all times their privacy, property & respect their land & features. In so doing no vehicles are allowed to be taken into the camping area due to erosion / wear. So a parking area will be provided by the entrance of the land for us to leave cars in a safe locked gated area. I have the use of one of the quad bikes & trailers & we can transport camping equipment down to the camping area. Location & directions will be sent out at a later date.

(G.R 643667 on OS Map No 138 – Kidderminster & Wyre Forest -1:50,000 Series)

Camping Facilities.

It will be up to each company to ensure that their delegates have their own suitable tents, sleeping equipment, cooking equipment / food & clothing for all eventualities. Fresh water is available on site. However, toilet facilities will be by chemical disposable toilets in tents, this will be provided by the Training Team. Washing will be carried out at the local tap. Remember it’s a training weekend with backpacking requirements so you will be expected to “rough it” a bit.

Equipment & Personal Kit Lists will be forward to you if required.

What’s the Course about?

You maybe concerned that your “kids” don’t know how to put the tent up or have never cooked a meal outside in the open or even been camping before or even been away from home before. Well the answer is, its all training & teamwork & that’s why the Training Team will be looking after their every need & teaching them over the weekend with all aspects that will be required for their future *DofE* Expedition “life”.

DofE Training Requirements.

Over the weekend we will be following the recognised *DofE* Training Schedules for Bronze & Silver as required. You may think that it would be good for you, your Officers & Leaders to attend for some extra tuition into the Expedition Section of DofE work. So as in previous years any Officers & Leaders are encouraged to attend the weekend to get some “hand on” experience of what you get up to on your expeditions. More the better. However, I must state that if those Officers are attending it will be as a participant in activities & not as a member of the training team.

What do we do next?

Complete the booking form (photocopy for more) & return it to me & then I can send full details to each company / unit.

For more information on this weekend course, please feel free that ask any questions & I will sort out any problems you may have.

Remember that this is the first part of Expedition Training & will go towards any Assessments that your “Kids” wish to go for later in the year.

If you have candidates for this course, I would appreciate the names / numbers by Monday 12th April 2010, thus giving us time to meet the training requirements.

Please send your requirements back on the enclosed Course Booking Form.

(please photo copy as required)

On the above venue, male & female Instructors / Staff will be present.

For more information-details and any questions, however small, please contact me.

Dave Briscoe.

DofE Award Advisor Wolverhampton & Shropshire Battalion..

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