



# PROGRAMME IDEAS

When completing each section of your DofE, you should develop a programme which is specific and relevant to you. This sheet gives you a list of programme ideas that you could do or you could use it as a starting point to create a programme of your own! For each idea, there is a useful document giving you guidance on how to do it, which you

can find under the category finder on [www.DofE.org/sections](http://www.DofE.org/sections)

## Help with planning

You can use the handy programme planner on the website to work with your Leader to plan your activity.

## Volunteering section

Volunteering gives you the chance to make a difference to people's lives and use your skills and experience to help your local community. You can use this opportunity to become involved in a project or with an organisation that you care about.

### Helping people:

Helping children  
Helping older people  
Helping people in need  
Helping people with special needs  
Youth work

### Community action & raising awareness:

Campaigning  
Cyber safety  
Council representation  
Drug & alcohol education  
Home accident prevention  
Peer education  
Personal safety  
Promotion & PR  
Road safety

### Working with the environment or animals:

Animal welfare  
Environment  
Rural conservation  
Preserving waterways  
Working at an animal rescue centre  
Litter picking  
Urban conservation  
Beach and coastline conservation  
Zoo/farm/nature reserve work

### Helping a charity or community organisation:

Administration  
Being a charity intern  
Being a volunteer lifeguard  
Event management  
Fundraising  
Mountain rescue  
Religious education  
Serving a faith community  
Supporting a charity  
Working in a charity shop

### Coaching, teaching and leadership:

Dance leadership

DofE Leadership  
Group leadership  
Leading a voluntary organisation group:  
- Girls' Venture Corps  
- Sea Cadets  
- Air Cadets  
- Jewish Lads' and Girls' Brigade  
- St John Ambulance  
- Scout Association  
- Air Training Corps  
- Army Cadet Force  
- Boys' Brigade  
- CCF  
- Church Lads' & Girls' Brigade  
- Girlguiding UK  
- Girls' Brigade  
Sports leadership  
Music tuition

## Physical section

Doing physical activity is fun and improves your health and physical fitness. There's an activity to suit everyone so choose something you are really interested in.

### Individual sports:

Archery  
Athletics (any field or track event)  
Biathlon/Triathlon/Pentathlon  
Bowling  
Boxing  
Croquet  
Cross country running  
Cycling  
Fencing  
Golf  
Horse riding  
Modern pentathlon  
Orienteering  
Pétanque  
Roller blading  
Running  
Static trapeze  
Wrestling

### Water sports:

Canoeing  
Diving  
Dragon Boat Racing  
Free-diving  
Kneeboarding  
Rowing & sculling  
Sailing  
Skurfing  
Sub aqua (SCUBA diving & snorkelling)

Surfing/body boarding  
Swimming  
Synchronised swimming  
Windsurfing

### Dance:

Ballet  
Ballroom dancing  
Belly dancing  
Bhangra dancing  
Cercoc  
Contra dance  
Country & Western  
Flamenco  
Folk dancing  
Jazz  
Line dancing  
Morris dancing  
Salsa (or other Latin styles) dancing  
Scottish/Welsh/Irish dancing  
Street dancing/breakdancing/hip hop  
Swing  
Tap dancing

### Racquet sports:

Badminton  
Matkot  
Racketlon  
Rapid ball  
Real tennis  
Squash  
Table tennis  
Tennis

### Fitness:

Aerobics  
Cheerleading  
Fitness classes  
Gym work  
Gymnastics  
Medau movement  
Physical achievement  
Pilates  
Running/jogging  
Trampoline  
Walking  
Weightlifting  
Yoga

### Extreme sports:

Caving & potholing  
Climbing  
Free running (parkour)  
Ice skating  
Mountain biking  
Mountain unicycling  
Parachuting  
Skateboarding  
Skydiving  
Snow sports (skiing, snowboarding)  
Snowkiting  
Speed skating  
Street luge

### Martial arts:

Aikido  
Capoeira  
Ju Jitsu  
Judo  
Karate  
Self-defence  
Sumo  
Tae Kwon Do  
Tai Chi

### Team sports:

American football  
Baseball  
Basketball  
Boccia  
Camogie  
Cricket  
Curling  
Dodge disc  
Dodgeball  
Fives  
Football  
Hockey  
Hurling  
Kabaddi  
Korfball  
Lacrosse  
Netball  
Octopushing  
Polo  
Rogaining  
Rounders  
Rugby  
Sledge hockey  
Stoolball  
Tchoukball  
Ultimate flying disc  
Underwater rugby  
Volleyball  
Wallyball  
Water polo

Ventriloquism  
Yoyo extreme

### Science & technology

Aerodynamics  
Anatomy  
Astronomy  
Biology  
Botany  
Chemistry  
Ecology  
Electronics  
Engineering  
Entomology  
IT  
Marine biology  
Oceanography  
Paleontology  
Physics  
Rocket making  
Taxonomy  
Weather/meteorology  
Website design  
Zoology

### Care of animals

Agriculture (keeping livestock)  
Aquarium keeping  
Beekeeping  
Caring for reptiles  
Dog training & handling  
Horse/donkey/llama/alpaca handling & care  
Keeping of pets  
Looking after birds (i.e. budgies & canaries)  
Pigeon breeding & racing

### Music

Church bell ringing  
Composing  
DJing  
Evaluating music & musical performances  
Improvising melodies  
Listening to, analysing & describing music  
Music appreciation  
Playing a musical instrument  
Playing in a band  
Reading & notating music  
Understanding music in relation to history & culture

### Natural world

Agriculture  
Conservation  
Forestry  
Gardening  
Groundsmanship  
Growing carnivorous plants  
Plant growing  
Snail farming  
Vegetable growing

## Skills section

Developing a skill helps you get better at something you are really interested in and gives you the confidence and ability to use this skill both now and later in life.

### Performance arts

Ballet appreciation  
Ceremonial drill  
Circus skills  
Conjuring & magic  
Dance appreciation  
Extreme ironing  
Majorettes  
Puppetry  
Singing  
Speech & drama  
Theatre appreciation

## **Games & sports**

Cards (i.e. bridge)  
Chess  
Clay target shooting  
Cycle maintenance  
Darts  
Dominoes  
Fishing/fly fishing  
Flying  
Gliding  
Go-karting  
Historical period re-enacting  
Kite construction & flying  
Mah Jongg  
Marksmanship  
Model construction & racing  
Motor sports  
Power boating  
Snooker, pool & billiards  
Sports appreciation  
Sports leadership  
Sports officiating  
Table games  
War games

## **Life skills**

Alternative therapies  
Cookery  
Democracy in action  
Digital lifestyle  
Driving: car maintenance/car road skills  
Driving: motorcycle maintenance/road skills  
Event planning  
First Aid – St John/St Andrew/BRCS  
Hair & beauty  
Learning about the emergency services  
Learning about the RNLI (Lifeboats)  
Library & information skills  
Life skills  
Massage  
Money management  
Navigation  
Public speaking and debating  
Skills for employment  
Young Enterprise

## **Learning & collecting**

Aeronautics  
Aircraft recognition  
Anthropology  
Archaeology  
Astronautics  
Astronomy  
Bird watching  
Coastal navigation  
Coins  
Collections, studies & surveys  
Comics  
Contemporary legends  
Costume study  
Criminology  
Dowsing & divining  
Fashion  
Forces insignia  
Gemstones  
Genealogy  
Heraldry  
History of art  
Language skills  
Military history  
Movie posters  
Postcards  
Reading  
Religious studies  
Ship recognition  
Stamp collecting

## **Media & communication**

Amateur radio  
Communicating with people

who are visually impaired  
Communicating with people who have a hearing impediment  
Film & video making  
Journalism  
Newsletter & magazine production  
Signalling  
Writing

## **Creative arts**

Basket making  
Boat work  
Brass rubbing  
Building catapults & trebuchets  
Cake decoration  
Camping gear making  
Candle-making  
Canoe building  
Canvas work  
Carnival/festival float construction  
Ceramics  
Clay modelling  
Crocheting  
Cross stitch  
DIY  
Dough craft  
Drawing  
Dressmaking  
Egg decorating  
Embroidery  
Enamelling  
Fabric printing  
Feng Shui  
Floral decoration  
French polishing  
Furniture restoration  
Glass blowing  
Glass painting  
Interior design  
Jewellery making  
Knitting  
Lace making  
Leatherwork  
Lettering & calligraphy  
Macramé  
Marquetry  
Model construction  
Mosaic  
Painting & design  
Patchwork  
Photography  
Pottery  
Quilting  
Rope work  
Rug making  
Snack pipping  
Soft toy making  
Tatting  
Taxidermy  
Textiles  
Weaving and spinning  
Wine/beer making  
Woodwork

# Expedition section

Going on an expedition gives you the chance to have an adventure, work as a team, and act on your own initiative. The expedition can be as far away or as close to home as you want it to be, and there are hundreds of ways you can go about it.

## **On foot**

- Studying insect life on the South Downs.

- Exploring teamwork by nominating a different leader each day.  
- Searching for forms of fungi, recording and sketching them.  
- Planning a route around three of the places that inspired Wordsworth's poems in the Lake District.  
- Considering the impact of tourism on the flora and fauna of the French Alps.  
- Drawing all the different star constellations you can see.  
- Creating a photo guide to the Countryside Code round the Mourne Mountains.

## **By bicycle**

- Using the cycle system in the Netherlands to undertake a research project on the provisions and quality of cycle paths compared to Britain.  
- Producing a nature guide of your route for future visitors.  
- Investigating features of the Thames using the Thames cycle path.  
- Doing a cycle of remembrance, taking in the historic wartime sites in Normandy.  
- Creating a video diary of the expedition, recording each team member's experiences.  
- Following part of the Gerald of Wales route of 1188 through Pembrokeshire.

## **By boat**

- Exploring the Norfolk Broads using sailing dinghies.  
- Exploring different team roles needed on a boat and giving everyone an opportunity to do a new one.  
- Rowing along the Danube in Germany booking camp sites in advance.  
- Planning a cross-channel journey in a yacht.  
- Using simple mapping techniques to produce a map of an estuary on the expedition & compare it with a real map when you return.  
- Planning a Bronze sailing expedition on Lake Ullswater in the Lake District.

## **By canoe or kayak**

- Recording the wildlife found on the Strangford Lough canoe trail.  
- Taking a series of photos to come up with a guide to a section of London canal systems.  
- Making a study of the locks and lochs on the Caledonian Canal.  
- Investigating samples of the river bed en route and comparing them with each other.  
- Carrying out a wilderness trip in Canada using the canoe trails used by the original settlers.  
- Choosing several points along a river and measure speed of flow, width and depth and comparing the

differences along their route, trying to explain why this may be.

## **By wheelchair**

- Following a disused railway track noting the current use of previous railway buildings.  
- Preparing a users' guide of a country park or National Trust estate, explaining how it can be used, e.g. fishing, picnicking, conservation.  
- Planning and doing a challenging route in the Peak District, making a video diary.  
- Planning a route in Cropton Forest to take a series of landscape photographs to use in a calendar.  
- Producing an illustrated guide to a stretch of canal. Research the history and then travel along the towpath using the expedition to gather photographs and sketches to illustrate the guide.  
- Creating an expedition music play list that reflects the team's experiences.

## **On horseback**

- Planning an expedition on horseback in the countryside including identifying suitable farm camp sites and bridleways.  
- Exploring accessibility and bridle paths in the Brecon Beacons.  
- Planning an expedition with sea views in Devon, taking photos along the way so that you can paint a picture of your favourite scene when you return.  
- Creating a series of team games to play whilst on expedition.  
- Going on an expedition through woodland, noting the different types and ages of trees you see.  
- Going on a horseriding expedition and writing a poem on your return to describe your experiences.

# Residential section

Going on a residential gives you the chance to learn how to work with people from different backgrounds and build confidence living in new environments. There are loads of exciting possibilities and opportunities, so choose something which you will find really fulfilling.

## **Service to others**

- Teaching English overseas.  
- Helping out on an overseas pilgrimage (i.e. to Lourdes or Mecca).  
- Being a leader at an overseas children's camp that promotes healthy eating and exercise.  
- Rebuilding a school roof in Lesotho.

- Helping deafblind young people and adults to enjoy a holiday.  
- Being an assistant to support an eco-friendly waste project at an outdoor education centre.  
- Assisting at a summer camp for Brownies.  
- Helping at an orphanage.

## **Environment and conservation**

- Attending a conference on climate change as a youth representative for your local authority.  
- Studying coral bleaching in Australia.  
- Joining a tree planting project with The Woodland Trust.  
- Monitoring the bat population in the New Forest.  
- Doing dry stone walling in the West Tyne Valley in the shadow of Hadrian's Wall.  
- Helping the preservation team of a narrow gauge railway in mid Wales.

## **Learning**

- Undertaking a cookery course.  
- Doing a falconry course.  
- Studying traditional dance.  
- Studying art history in Florence.  
- Doing a photography course run by a university and exhibiting your work.  
- Learning to snowboard on an intensive course in Scotland.  
- Improving your Spanish language skills on a course in Madrid.  
- Learning to write and produce music and putting on a show for locals.  
- Taking part in an astronomy course, learning about constellations, black holes and solar systems.

## **Activity based**

- Taking part in a week-long discovery of stage combat in Wales.  
- Going white water rafting in New Zealand past glaciers and mountains.  
- Stewarding at a music festival.  
- Taking part in a multi-faith residential, studying different religions.  
- Joining an historical re-enactment of the Battle of Bosworth.  
- Joining an ACF activity week with members of different detachments.