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February 2013: Updates

(picture by 'Silver Open Expedition team 2012')

Hi everyone, we hope this e-newsletter finds you all well.

A few updates for you:

[Please click here for the new official DofE Newsletter for DofE Leaders published by DofE, it also has links to their most recent DofE magazine which you can read online.](#)

Some Stats : In 2012 we had;

323 Bronze enrolments (71.6%) (102 were Skillforce and 221 everyone else)

65 Silver enrolments (14.4%)

63 Gold enrolments (14%) **A total of 451 DofE participants**

(Wow! What a fantastic achievement , well done everyone)

This is a special Help request to anyone and everyone.....

With the large numbers of young people enrolled in DofE Moray (which is really exciting!) we have a need to ask for your help (in any capacity) with expeditions.

I know many of you are already linking in with DofE Centres, we all really appreciate your willingness, thank you.

If you are up for supporting expeditions please let us know in the first instance so we can help you link-in with groups, thanks.

gavin.morgan@moray.gov.uk / 01343813614

Book your places : *Adult Training for 2013

Exped Supervisors Course : 16th Feb

Exped Assesor Accreditation Course : 4th May :Date has been changed

'Intro to DofE': 23rd March (For volunteers who have not yet completed this 'Intro course')

[click here for full details and booking forms](#)

Regional Expedition training day for participants.

DofE Coordinators and Leaders - if any of your participants plan to attend our 'Regional expedition training' days, they will need to go to:

www.moray.gov.uk/dofemoray (click on 'participants' then 'Whats on in DofE Moray').

They will need to print off the [booking form](#) and read the [information](#) and [letter to parents/participants](#). The cost is £20.00 for each participant regardless of whether they come to none, some, or all training, as this cover some of the costs and helps support DofE in Moray.

Participants should post in the form to:

DofE Moray
Lossiemouth Community Centre
Coulardbank Road
Lossiemuth, IV31 6JW

with a cheque made payable to 'Moray Local Awards Committee'.

Leaders may wish to collect them first and then internal mail/post them to us. Thanks for your support with this. We do not intend to accept payment/forms on the day so participants need to know this information as early as possible.

Participants Expedition Training for 2013

Would you be willing to help support the participants expedition training events in March?

Sunday 3rd March 2013 : Lossie School Sports Hall (covering much of the DofE training framework) 10-3.30pm

Sunday 17th March 2013 : Lossie Woods : Practical Navigation training 10-3/4pm (staggered start times)

A chance to assist or lead an activity, meet other volunteers and generally have an early March DofE experience. (Lunch provided for volunteers on both events).

[To let us know you are able to help, click here to put your name on either or both events, thanks for your help and support.](#)

or email gavin.morgan@moray.gov.uk

Expedition support

Supervisor / Assessors/ Helpers

The requests for help with expedition teams are starting to come in. Would you be able to help with any of these expeditions please?

- Speyside H.S **Bronze exped** (1 supervisor needed who could also assess the 2nd group of Gareth's on the qualifier.)

27th/28th April (practise) and 11th and 12th May (qualifier)

- Speyside High School **Silver qualifier** on West Highland Way (**7-9th June**)
Assessor needed.

contact gareth.wignall@moray-edunet.gov.uk

- **Gold Expedition-** a group from Forres are needing a Supervisor and assesor for their qualifying expedition- Contact Brianna Zoll on forresacademydofe@gmail.com

***Moray Local Awards Committee (MLAC)**

The next MLAC meeting is on **Monday 11th February** at Elgin High School (room X14) from **7pm to 8:30pm**. Here is the **Agenda** (if you wish anything to be added please can you let us know, thanks)

Coordinators/Leaders - Please can we ask you to submit a short **Group report** to Diane (MLAC secretary) on any updates in your Centre (number of enrolments/ exped groups/ any help you need.

Diane has agreed to read them out at the meeting and you can elaborate if need be or we move on to the next group report.

This will help us keep to time and ensure we cover the full agenda.

The **Moray Local Awards Committee Annual General Meeting** is on **Monday 15th April 2013 from 7pm** , Venue TBC

Cairngom 'Adopt a Path'

Is anyone interested in being part of the DofE Moray team who are going to 'adopt a path' in the Cairngorms?

A training date has been set for the 24th Feb which will allow us to maintain the path and support young people (either as volunteering or possibly as part of their aim of their expedition) to support this initiative.

[See here for a full update by Hamish on this very exciting initiative \(very early stages, so do please get involved to help shape it\)](#)

Anyone interested can email gavin.morgan@moray.gov.uk

Gold Residential Opportunities

- 31st March to 4th April :

[Gold leadership Residential \(for Young DofE Leaders\)](#)

- DofE Scotland is teaming up with Glenmore Lodge to offer an **Expedition Leadership course to Gold Award holders from 7 to 13 July**. The course offers qualification as a Walking Group or Trail Cycle leader, DofE Expedition Assessor, DofE Supervisor, and Emergency First Aider all for only £250 including food and accommodation! If you know of any young people interested in continuing their DofE journey after their award, please refer them to the DofE Scotland [website](#) for more information.



The Gold Open Award centre runs on the 3rd Monday of every month at Elgin Youth cafe, [\(click here for full dates in 2013\)](#)

Current focus is on providing Expedition training at Gold level for any participant wishing to go out on Gold expeditions in 2013.

If you are interested in helping support this Centre, please get in touch with [Gavin](#)

Joe Pirnie (DofE leader at the Forres Open Award centre) has recently organised a '**Cake decoration**' activity for participants as a 3 month skill section. Well done Joe- tell us more please ?

' I am Joe, a Gold Award holder and a DofE Leader' in Forres.

I have been successful in helping to create a new skill activity here in Forres through my employer 'Macleans Highland Bakery'.

MacLean's Bakery have offered a 'cake decoration' skill course for DofE participants at bronze level and we have a number of participants who have signed up for this course from the Forres Girl Guides DofE group.

I look forward to the participants completing their skill sections with the hope that Macleans will offer this again to other DofE Participants in Forres.'

On other news, Joe and Gavin attended a meeting with the **Forres Rotarians** in December. they enjoyed the DofE presentation Joe and Gavin delivered and were impressed with both **Brianna Zolls 'Forres Academy DofE' and the Open Award centre in Forres**, and suggested that in September, they would be looking for volunteers to help with some of their projects.

If you have any news you want us to put in the newsletter, let us know.

***CCB stands for Community Capacity Building , [here is the link to the training calendar](#)** run by the Community Learning and Development team (who hold the DofE Licence for the Moray Council) where you can access training.

Does anyone have a nice photo or news to share for the next newsletter?

It would be lovely to start sharing more local/regional stories about what is going on in DofE Moray in your area.

Volunteers Questions and Answers / Discussion forum.

On the newsletter, we want to give space for you to put your comments across and get feedback. Maybe you have a good news story or updates you think others would benefit from.

email [Gavin](#) to add something to the next newsletter.

Here's one:

(Q) As a DofE Volunteer can I claim back travel expenses incurred through supporting DofE Moray activities?

(A) Yes, you can claim back your travel expenses using the [form on this web page](#)

Thank you for supporting DofE Moray

www.dofemoray.gov.uk