

Ages

- 1 The **age range** of the Scheme is from the **14 to the 24**.

- 2 The **minimum starting ages** for each Award are:
 - Bronze** – 14 years old
Some discretion is given to Operating Authorities to permit a few who are under 14 but belong to part of a larger group over this age to make a start with their friends. (This concession is primarily intended for those in schools or youth groups who plan their activities on a group basis for the year ahead.) Under such circumstances, the participant must at least have reached their 13th birthday.

 - Silver** – 15 years old
Some discretion is given to Operating authorities to permit those who have completed the Bronze Award but below this age to make a start on the Silver Award without imposing an artificial delay.

 - Gold** – 16 years old
No activities may be counted for the Gold Award below this age.

Subject to these minimum ages, entry may be for the Bronze, Silver or Gold Award.

- 3 The latest date for entry into the Scheme is the 23rd birthday and the upper age limit for all participants is 24. All activities to count for an Award must be completed before the 25th birthday. Extensions can only be considered where illness, accident or unavoidable circumstances make this impossible, in which case requests are to be referred by Operating Authorities to the Award Office for consideration.

The Award of the Scheme

There are 3 Award Levels – Bronze, Silver and Gold.

The Sections of the Scheme

For each Award, those taking part have to complete the requirements of each of the 4 sections (5 sections for Gold Level):

Service

Adventurous Journey

Skills

Physical Recreation

Residential Project (Gold Level only)

Participants of **Bronze Level**, **Direct Silver Level** and **Direct Gold Level** have to choose one section from **Skills**, **Physical Recreation** or **Service** as the “Major”, while the other two sections will be “Minors”. Participants have to spend more time and participate in activities of the “Major” section for a longer duration, in order to gain deeper understanding on the section. Participants of Progressive Silver Level and Progressive Gold Level are not required to choose their “Major” or “Minor”.

Entry into the Scheme

Participation in the Scheme is to be a young person’s voluntary choice. Subject to the minimum age requirement, entry into the Scheme is open to all young people for all 3 Award Levels. Entry is made by obtaining a Record Book from a recognised Operating Authority. This marks the starting point in the Scheme.

Any activities undertaken before the Record Book is issued to the participant cannot be counted towards an Award, unless undergone during the previous 3 months in accordance with the conditions of

the appropriate Section with a view of entry into the Scheme.

Participation in the Scheme

1 Leisure Time

Although the Scheme is essentially an introduction to leisure activities, a participant's interests within school, formal training or work will often stimulate and sustain a commitment to one or other of the Scheme's many programmes or pursuits. However, training within normal working times for examination or career advancement purposes cannot be counted for an Award. To qualify, a participant must show adequate evidence of a voluntary effort and a substantial contribution of leisure time.

2 Activities

Activities followed by young people within their own particular youth organisations may count for Award purposes provided that they are already in possession of a Record Book and that the appropriate Award conditions are fulfilled.

With growing maturity, it is expected that participants at Silver will take some share in organizing and arranging their activities and at Gold, they are expected to take the major part in planning and arranging what they want to do. At the higher levels of the Award an increasing proportion of Award activities should be conducted outside the immediate environment of schools' or works' premises.

3 Work for a section of the next higher Award

In order to start a Section of the next Award Level, the participants must have completed the same Section and at least one other Section of the lower level, provided that these participants are over the minimum starting age for the next Award Level. However, participants cannot participate in all three Award Levels at the same time.

4 Instruction

Instruction is to be given by suitably experienced persons, holding appropriate qualifications where specified in the detailed programmes, and approved:

- for the Bronze Award, by unit Award leaders.
- for the Silver and Gold Award by representative of Operating Authorities.

5 Assessment

Assessment is to be undertaken by suitably qualified persons approved:

- for the Bronze and Silver Award by representative of Operating Authorities.
- for the Gold Award, Panel of the respective section.

Authorisation of Awards

The Record Book is used to record the participant's successful progress through the Scheme, and entries should only be made when the requirements of each Section have been satisfactorily met.

A participant is qualified for the Bronze or Silver Award when all the requirements have been completed to the satisfaction of the Operating Authorities who are responsible for the authorization of such Awards.

The Award Council, Hong Kong undertakes the authorization of the Gold Award and participants must satisfy the Council they have completed all the requirements.

Participation by the Special Needs

Young people with special needs should attempt as much of the Scheme as possible under normal conditions, making full use of the wide choice of activities available in each section. When necessary, variations may be made to suit individual needs.

Detailed Conditions

The detailed conditions for each section of the Scheme are given in the following chapters. It is emphasized that these are the minimum requirements to qualify for an Award: many young people will be able to undertake, and will gain greater value from undertaking, more than the stipulated minimum.