

Aim

To broaden young people experience through involvement with others in a residential setting.

The Principles

The intention of this Section is to introduce young people to some form of ***purposeful activity in the company of others who are not already known to them.***

Through the experience of living and working with others who are not their normal everyday companions, young people will develop maturity and a sense of responsibility for their actions.

Benefits to Young People

The Residential Project should give young people the opportunity to:

- cope with an unfamiliar environment
- show initiative
- make new friends and show concern for others
- enjoy working and living with others
- work towards a shared goal
- accept responsibility

Requirement

Participants are required to undertake some shared purposeful activity away from home for a total period of ***not less than five consecutive days and four nights away.*** They should be in the company of others who are not their usual companions from school, work or youth group.

Therefore, in order to fulfill the objectives of the Residential Project, it is probably most beneficial for participants to join

projects ***individually***. Otherwise only a small minority of those taking part should be the young person usual acquaintances.

In exceptional circumstances, such as limited leave availability, the Residential Project may be spread over a series of weekends provided that:

- they involve at least four nights away;
- they fall within a 12-month period;
- the same activity is pursued and that progressive training is provided ; &
- the participant is present throughout the event, living and working with the same team of people.

The Project must have a clear and worthwhile purpose and serve to broaden the interests and experience of the participants. Under some circumstances, it may be related to existing interests or activities being followed in other Sections of the Award. However, it cannot be the assessment activity of this Section and the other Sections simultaneously.

Suitable Opportunities

Many opportunities for Residential Projects exist and include camps, courses and projects falling into the following categories:

1. Church sponsored courses for young people.
2. Coaching and activity courses.
3. General training and adventure courses sponsored by Outward Bound School and other organizations.
4. Special courses arranged by Operating Authorities.
5. Voluntary help at homes, centres or camps for disadvantaged children, the elderly, the handicapped or with recognized relief organizations such as Helping Hand.

6. Voluntary work with bodies concerned with the preservation of amenities, conservation of the environment, archaeological projects etc.
7. Youth leadership training courses.

Other types of courses or placements may be approved provided that the requirement and conditions are satisfied.

Assessment

The assessment should be undertaken by one of the adults who will be present throughout the period of residence, directly interacts with the participant and is able to observe the progress of the participant during the Project.

The participant should inform the Course Leader and other Course Tutors or Instructors that the project will form part of a Gold Award assessment when plans to join the project. Meetings should be arranged with the Assessor during, and at the end of, the Project to review progress and discuss issues related to the experience and assessment.

The participant is to be assessed on:

1. Personal Standards

- Cleanliness & tidiness
- Conduct
- Consideration for others

2. Relationship with others

- with staff
- with own contemporaries

3. Resourcefulness

- Adaptation to new surroundings
- Determination

- Perseverance
- Leadership potential

4. Initiative

- Enthusiasm
- Willingness to try new things
- Innovation

5. Overall Performance

Record Books

The Record Book represents a young person experiences and achievements and remarks should therefore be ***personalized, positive and encouraging***. It should always record success and achievement and, whenever possible, should be completed before the participant leaves the Project.

In the event of the Assessor not being satisfied that the participant has fulfilled the assessment criteria by the end of the Project, the young person should be informed of the reason and no entry should be made in the Record Book. The Assessor should encourage the participant to undertake another Project.

Notes

Before a booking is confirmed for a Residential Project, Leaders and participants should be sure that it adheres to the following criteria:

- Attendance at the event is the free choice of the participant rather than being a compulsory course.
- The participant will be joining the event alone; alternatively, only a small minority of participants on the project should be known to the young person at home, school or at work.

- The Residential offers opportunities to broaden experience and involve the participant in purposeful enterprise in the company of others.
- Its duration is not less than 5 consecutive full days (4 nights).
- The participant is present throughout the event, living and working with the same team of people.
- The Residential provides opportunities to develop maturity and to accept responsibility.
- There are opportunities for the participant to be adequately assessed throughout the full period, rather than merely qualify by attendance.
- The Assessor will be present throughout the period of residence and directly involved with the participant.
- The Assessor is aware of the criteria for assessment and the procedures for signing the Record Book.