



“My greatest memory of the adventurous journey was when I wanted to give up, but my team motivated me to push through.”

New York area high school student








## About The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award (The Award) is the world's leading youth achievement award for young people. The Award was founded in 1956 by HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and came to the US in 2006. Our non-formal education program creates a world where young people, aged 14-24, can reach their full potential whatever their circumstances. To date, more than 8 million young people from over 140 countries have been motivated to undertake a variety of self-development, non-competitive, and challenging activities to earn their Duke of Edinburgh's International Award.

International research demonstrates that young people who participate in The Award become more **confident and resilient**, and **develop their communication, problem-solving and leadership skills**. This, in turn, impacts positively on their communities, creating global citizens, who see improvements in areas including employability, health and well-being, and educational attainment. The Award requires persistence, commitment, and has a lasting impact on the attitudes and outlooks of all participants.

## What is The Award?

Through a structured framework, The Award program empowers young people on a journey of personal growth through four main sections. Award Participants:

1. Make a difference through community **SERVICE** 
2. Engage in **PHYSICAL FITNESS** 
3. Learn a new **SKILL**  (or focus on advancing an existing one)
4. Challenge themselves and others in a team-based **ADVENTUROUS JOURNEY** 
5. Only at the Gold level, broaden their horizons by sharing in a purposeful experience with new people through a **RESIDENTIAL PROJECT** 

## Award Levels & Timeframes








**BRONZE**



**SILVER**



**GOLD**

Minimum Age	14	15	16
Minimum Participation Period*	6 months	6 months or 12 months*	12 months or 18 months*
Service 	3 months	6 months	12 months
Physical Fitness 	3 months	6 months	12 months
Skills 	3 months	6 months	12 months
Adventurous Journey 	2 days / 1 night	3 days / 2 nights	4 days / 3 nights
Residential Project 			5 days / 4 nights
Plus...	All participants must do an additional 3 months in the Service, Physical Fitness, or Skills section	<u>Non Bronze</u> holders must do an additional 6 months in the Service, Physical Fitness, or Skills section	<u>Non Silver</u> holders must do an additional 6 months in the Service, Physical Fitness, or Skills section

\* minimum time depends on whether participant holds a previous Award

The Award is empowering for young people because they take total responsibility for all aspects of their experience. Their Award Leader will offer advice and guidance, but the participant feels the pride of accomplishment as they:

- Select activities and set measurable goals for each of the different sections.
- Choose an Assessor for each of the four sections. The Assessor is an adult responsible for validating the progress and efforts of the participant (ex. Soccer coach, knitting instructor, etc.)
- Attend and complete the activities for a minimum of one hour per week.
- Log their activities' progress on the Online Record Book.



**“The Award helped me gain skills that are useful for life and I realized that I can trust in myself and I can make good decisions.”**

New York area high school student

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award USA  
Office (312) 763-2087  
[www.usaward.org](http://www.usaward.org) [info@usaward.org](mailto:info@usaward.org)

@USAward

