



## **MEDIA ALERT**

### **His Royal Highness The Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex KG GCVO visits the United States**

*British Royal visits the United States as part of a yearlong program of engagements in support for  
The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award*

Groups of young Americans will have the opportunity to meet a British Prince this month, as His Royal Highness The Prince Edward visits the United States.

The visit will see His Royal Highness - who is Chair of The Board of Trustees of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award – attend dozens of engagements across nine cities, over 12 days, in support of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award USA.

During the visit, Prince Edward will personally meet and congratulate a number of young Americans who have achieved the Gold standard of the globally renowned Duke of Edinburgh's International Award.

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award encourages young people between the ages of 14 – 24 to challenge themselves through a personalised program of skill development, physical activity, voluntary service and adventure. By pushing young people outside of their comfort zones, they can discover the power of their potential and find their own purpose, passion and place in the world.

HRH is visiting the United States as part of a year-long program of activities to celebrate, raise awareness and drive support for the inspirational activity of young people and volunteers around the world, who make up the 1.3 million participants and 200,000 volunteers in more than 130 countries and territories involved in the Award.

Following his own personal Award journey, HRH will also complete a series of Real Tennis (also known as Court Tennis in the United States) matches during his visit. His Royal Highness developed a passion for the sport more than 30 years ago, when completing his own Gold Award.



Elizabeth Higgins-Beard, Chief Executive Officer of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award USA says: "As The Award comes to America we now can offer the world's leading youth achievement award to our own young people. Ask anyone from abroad about the Award and likely they will tell you it celebrates what young people are capable of. For involved young adults, the Award challenges them to reflect, dig a bit deeper, and perhaps try something new. For young adults with little access to camping, hobbies, sporting, volunteerism or mentorship, the Award can push them to learn new skills and grow. Each young person builds their goals and through perseverance gains insights."

Over 700 young people have had the opportunity to participate in The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award in the USA. Whilst it's in its infancy, Award USA is growing due to rising interest in and demand for customized extra-curricular activities and activities that allow young people to discover their passions as well as to connect with their communities.

For more information about access to content, photography and footage of His Royal Highness' visit, please contact Sean Smith, Director of Development, [ssmith@usaward.org](mailto:ssmith@usaward.org); (312) 265-0237

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#### **About The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award USA**

- The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award USA is the world's leading youth achievement Award, available to all young people aged 14-24, regardless of their background, culture, physical ability, skills and interests
- It is delivered around the world by schools, colleges, universities, employers, social clubs, uniformed and non-uniformed youth organisations, young offenders' institutions, religious organisations, sports clubs, and a range of other civic organisations
- Founded in 1956 by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, the Award enables young people to learn, develop and thrive through non-formal education, equipping them for life
- It challenges participants, pushing them to their personal limits and helping them to discover they are capable of so much more than they ever thought possible
- Since its launch over 60 years ago, millions of young people have participated and received Awards, with millions more benefiting from its impact in communities around the world



- More than 1.3 million young people have participated in the Award in the past year, across 130+ countries and territories
- Over 700 young people have had the opportunity to participate in The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award in the USA. Whilst it's in its infancy, Award USA is growing due to rising interest in and demand for customized extra-curricular activities and activities that allow young people to discover their passions as well as to connect with their communities
- Find out more about The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award USA by visiting <https://usaward.org/>