


A person wearing a backpack and a beanie is seen from behind, standing on a dirt path and looking out over a serene landscape. In the distance, a calm blue lake is nestled within a forest of tall, thin trees. The foreground is filled with dry, golden-brown grass and a dirt path. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic, with soft lighting suggesting early morning or late afternoon. At the bottom of the image, there are several overlapping, wavy bands of color in red, yellow, blue, green, and purple.

DELIVERING THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S INTERNATIONAL AWARD

THE AWARD



The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award is a global non-formal education framework which operates in more than 130 countries and territories, helping to inspire young people to dream big, celebrate their achievements, and make a difference in their world.

Through developing transferable skills, increasing their fitness levels, cultivating a sense of adventure, and volunteering in their community, the Award helps young people to find their purpose, passion, and place in the world.

There are 1.3 million young people currently completing their own unique program throughout the world, via hundreds of thousands of youth-focused Award Units, including schools, colleges and universities, youth organizations, youth offender institutions, and the Virtual Award Program. Though the Award only recently came to the United States, it continues to grow as it offers a truly global opportunity for young Americans to develop a customized set of goal oriented skill development and physical recreation activities, while making an impact on their communities through service.

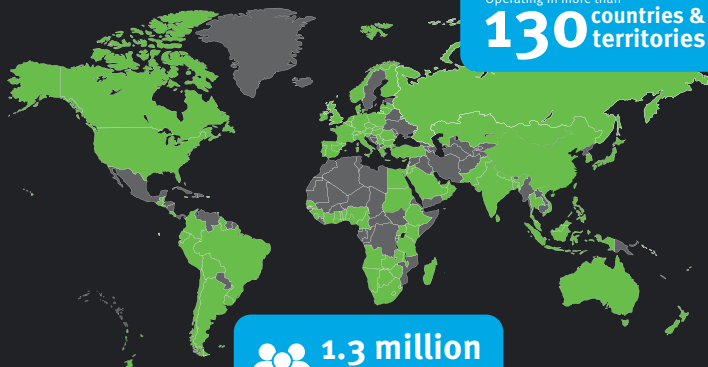
This guide sets out how your organization can become licensed to deliver the Award in the United States.

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S INTERNATIONAL AWARD IN A YEAR*



Operating in more than

130 countries & territories



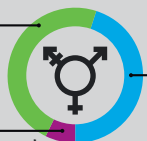
1.3 million
participants

48%

Female

7%

Not disclosed



45%
Male

1,800+
new participants daily



≈330,000

young people gained a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award




180,000+
volunteers

150,000+ participants are from at risk or marginalized backgrounds



*Statistics from 2017

HOW DOES THE AWARD WORK?



The Award is a customized self development program available to all young people between the ages of 14 and 24. It empowers and inspires young people from all backgrounds and communities to challenge themselves, leave their comfort zones, exceed expectations, and gain invaluable skills as global citizens of the world.

With the support of adult mentors, participants create their own Award program. They feel the pride of accomplishment as they:

- ▶ Select activities and set measurable goals for each section of the Award.
- ▶ Choose an adult Assessor to validate the progress and efforts of the participant in each Award section. Examples include a soccer coach, piano teacher, or coding instructor.
- ▶ Complete the activities within their local community consistently for a minimum of one hour per week.
- ▶ Log the progress of their activities in the Online Record Book.
- ▶ Embark on a group camping trip to discover a spirit of adventure and gain a greater understanding of the outdoors with a team. It requires preparation through training and a practice journey.

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*
VOLUNTARY SERVICE	3 months	6 months	12 months
PHYSICAL RECREATION	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
GOLD RESIDENTIAL PROJECT			5 days / 4 nights
Plus...	All Participants must do an additional 3 months in the Service, Physical Recreation, or Skills section	<u>Non Bronze</u> holders must do an additional 6 months in the Service, Physical Recreation, or Skills section	<u>Non Silver</u> holders must do an additional 6 months in the Service, Physical Recreation, or Skills section

* minimum time depends on whether participant holds a previous Award



VOLUNTARY SERVICE To discover the impact of volunteerism, participants give useful service to their community.



PHYSICAL RECREATION Promoting health and wellness, participants engage in an individual or team activity.



SKILLS Participants broaden their horizons by developing a new skill or enhancing a current skill.




ADVENTUROUS JOURNEY Most commonly a group camping trip, the journey fosters a wider appreciation for the great outdoors.



GOLD RESIDENTIAL PROJECT Completed only at the Gold Level, participants engage in a venture beyond their own communities.

WHY DELIVER THE AWARD?



With the support of adult mentors, The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award encourages young people to unleash their passions and believe in the power of their potential.

Participants pursue their self-identified areas of interest, developing their own unique Award program of skill-building, physical activity, voluntary community service, and challenge through outdoor adventure. As they work to achieve internationally recognized Awards, they build the character, skills, and confidence needed to improve themselves and their communities. The Award encourages them to step outside their comfort zone and develop positive habits that they will take with them for the rest of their lives.

Not all learning happens in the classroom – in fact some of life's biggest lessons happen in unexpected locations. The value of education outside the classroom is increasingly recognized by global institutions and education experts alike. When paired with a quality formal education, it provides a fantastic foundation for a young person to thrive. This is why thousands of schools, universities, and employers around the world value the Award so highly and offer it as a key part of a truly holistic education.

IMPACT OF THE AWARD



Improved employability
and earning potential



Improved physical
health and fitness



Improved mental
health and fitness



Increased engagement
with charitable and
community causes



Reduced offending



Increased social and
community inclusion



Improved
environmental impact

Young people who take part in the Award commonly report an increase in self-confidence, resilience, leadership skills, creativity and adaptability, planning, problem-solving, communication skills, and personal and social well-being.

7 OUT OF 10
**MADE
NEW FRIENDS**



97% OF PARTICIPANTS
98% OF AWARD LEADERS
**RECOMMEND
THE AWARD**



93%
**DEVELOPED TEAMWORK
SKILLS**



**91% FOUND THE
AWARD
FUN
AND
CHALLENGING**



9 OUT OF 10
**AWARD LEADERS
BENEFIT
FROM BEING
INVOLVED**



89% OF ADULTS INVOLVED
**FEEL
THEIR SKILLS ARE
VALUED
AND GIVEN
RECOGNITION**



THE AWARD NOT ONLY CHANGES THE LIVES OF YOUNG PEOPLE,
BUT ALSO THEIR COMMUNITIES AND THE ADULTS WHO SUPPORT THEM.

ORGANIZATIONAL BENEFITS OF DELIVERING THE AWARD

Any organization with young people ages 14 - 24 can deliver the Award. Delivering the Award brings many benefits, not least the opportunity to help develop young people and support them on their journey as they discover their full potential.

By delivering the Award, your organization will:

- ▶ Provide a unique internationally recognized credential for outside the classroom experiences.
- ▶ Connect and build partnerships with local community organizations as participants complete Award section requirements.
- ▶ Develop the lives of young people and foster mentoring relationships at your organization using a proven framework that compliments existing programming.
- ▶ Provide Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for your staff.
- ▶ Become part of an international network of Award Units, Award Leaders, and like-minded individuals and organizations.



“

Impact and the growth of students - I could tell you about so many wonderful experiences like being out where they can see seven billion stars for the first time and trading in their smart phone for a backpack. These days students problem solve using their thumbs on a screen. Out in the wilderness, a lost tent can't be solved by Google. I enjoy seeing young people overcome their mental and physical challenges.”

Jim
Award Leader

“

Being an Award Leader means a chance for me to help young people push themselves beyond their comfort zone. Being a part of such a phenomenal organization can aid in building a stronger mind, increasing self-confidence, improving team work and time management skills, building a wider social and networking circle, and ultimately helping young people increase their employability.”


Jamar
Adventurous Journey Assessor



SUPPORT AND SERVICES FROM AWARD USA

As a licensed Award Center, you will benefit from:

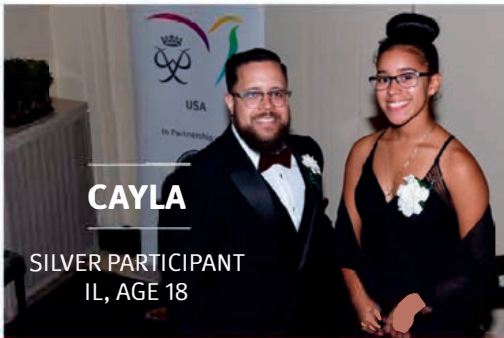
- ▶ Ongoing support from a dedicated Program Officer at Award USA.
- ▶ Access to a complete suite of online learning materials to support your staff/volunteer professional development.
- ▶ A portfolio of Award management tools and resources.
- ▶ Consistent virtual training sessions, national and global gatherings.
- ▶ Guidance in completing Quality Assurance and annual reports.
- ▶ Regular communication updates from the Award USA team.
- ▶ Membership in a global peer-to-peer discussion forum.
- ▶ Use of the Online Record Book; a digital platform for paperless management of the Award at your organization.
- ▶ Guidance for in-house annual Award Ceremonies for successful participants at your organization.
- ▶ Opportunities for Participants and Award Leaders to attend national Gold Award Ceremonies on an annual basis.
- ▶ Access to a recognized international brand and branding resources.

A young woman with brown hair in a ponytail, wearing a black top, is speaking into a microphone. The background is a solid brown color.

ROSIE

GOLD PARTICIPANT
OH, AGE 18


THE AWARD CONNECTS ME.
IT HAS CONNECTED ME WITH PEOPLE
ACROSS THE WORLD.

A young woman with glasses and a black dress with a white flower corsage stands next to a man in a tuxedo. They are in front of a backdrop with the USA Olympic logo and the text 'In Partnership with'.

CAYLA

SILVER PARTICIPANT
IL, AGE 18


**THE AWARD ALLOWED
ME TO SEE THE STARS.**

A young man with short dark hair, wearing a blue jacket, is smiling. The background is a blurred green outdoor setting.

JUSTIN

BRONZE PARTICIPANT
IL, AGE 17

**THE AWARD MAKES VIDEO
GAMES BORING.**

A young man with glasses and a colorful patterned shirt is working on a boat. He is looking down at something in his hands. The background shows the boat's structure and the water.

AARON

BRONZE PARTICIPANT
NJ, AGE 19

**I HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING
OF HOW LONG A WEEK IS.**
THIS IS A STRATEGY FOR LEARNING THINGS
EVEN WHILE NOT IN SCHOOL.

HOW TO BECOME LICENSED TO DELIVER THE AWARD

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award USA uses a social franchising model to delegate, under license, the rights and responsibilities of delivering the Award to organizations across the United States.



The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award USA provides the following types of licenses:

- ▶ **The Award Center License** is intended for smaller, single site organizations. Award Centers are licensed under Award USA to deliver the Award exclusively for their students or young people at a single location. Examples include schools, universities, or after school organizations not needing to operate in multiple locations.
- ▶ **The Award Operating Authority License** is intended for larger organizations with multiple sites. Award Operating Authorities are licensed to operate the Award Program under a sublicense from Award USA and can operate as a single organization, but can also work with other units within their organization for Award delivery. For example, a school district may serve as the Award Operating Authority and work with each individual school in their district to serve as an Award Center under a sublicense. Award Operating Authorities provide oversight for Award Centers operating under their sublicense.
- ▶ **The Partner Agreement Sublicense** is intended for smaller units in an organization operating under the guidance of their Award Operating Authority. An example would be a school working under the sublicense of their district that holds an Award Operating Authority license.

STEPS TO BECOME LICENSED TO DELIVER THE AWARD

STEP 1 DETERMINE THE LEVEL OF INTEREST

It is essential to determine if there is sufficient interest among your young people, and their parents/guardians, to really make the Award successful at your organization. You may wish to gauge the level of interest by holding an information meeting about the Award, or simply by sending out an email to young people and parents/guardians providing information so they can begin to understand what the Award is about. Award USA can provide suitable materials to support this effort.

STEP 2 ENLIST THE SUPPORT OF SENIOR LEADERS

Delivering the Award is a significant undertaking, so it is vital that your senior leaders are willing to support delivery of the Award and remain committed to its ongoing success. **Your organization must be prepared to back the Award with three key resources:**

► PERSONNEL

An Award Team of adults with sufficient time and resources to administer the Award and other staff/volunteers to support delivery.

► FINANCES

A budget should be developed and include the cost of licensing, training for adults, materials (incorporates Adventurous Journey equipment), and ongoing administrative costs.

► FLEXIBLE PLANS

All sections of the Award – and the Adventurous Journey in particular – require careful planning and sustained effort on the part of participants and Award Leaders. Support and understanding of Award activities and young people's time commitment is essential for facilitating success.

STEP 3

IDENTIFY YOUR AWARD TEAM

Identify key people who are willing to commit their time to the Award. The Award is comprised of extra-curricular activities taking place outside of class time. For most adult Award Team members, these are voluntary roles.

Award Team roles include:

- ▶ **LICENSE HOLDER** Signs the license on behalf of the organization. The license holder is a senior leader at the organization and holds the responsibility for ensuring adherence to the terms of the license.
- ▶ **AWARD COORDINATORS** Take overall operational responsibility for the delivery of the Award with participants and can also serve as an Award Leader.
- ▶ **AWARD LEADERS** Work with participants, mentoring them to choose their activities, monitoring their progress, and coordinating aspects of their Award programs.
- ▶ **ADVENTUROUS JOURNEY SUPERVISORS** Organize and carry out the Adventurous Journey section with participants. They take legal responsibility for the groups while out on their journeys or expeditions.
- ▶ **ADVENTUROUS JOURNEY ASSESSORS** Certify that the participants have successfully completed this section of the Award.
- ▶ **OTHER VOLUNTEERS** Additional helpers who support the delivery of the Award across all the sections.
- ▶ **AWARD MANAGER** (for Award Operating Authority licenses) Takes overall operational responsibility for overseeing sublicensed Award Units at their organization.

STEP 4

APPLY FOR LICENSE & COMPILE EVIDENCE

- 1 Request a license application pack, which contains all the necessary documents and information.
- 2 Complete and submit the Award USA application.

Provide evidence of the following:

- ▶ Documentation that your organization is an established and reputable legal entity (i.e. company number, charity status certificate, school registration number, etc.).
- ▶ Explanation of how the Award is a logical fit within your organization.
- ▶ An existing membership of students/young people within the 14 – 24 age group.
- ▶ That members have regular contact with the organization, typically spanning a minimum of 12 months, such that the organization could be considered to play an ongoing mentoring role for the young people.
- ▶ The administrative capacity and budget to manage the delivery of the Award at your organization.
- ▶ Child Safeguarding Policies and procedures in place in line with US legislation.
- ▶ Health and Safety risk management in line with US standards.

STEP 5

LICENSE AGREEMENT, SIGNATURE AND ANNUAL LICENSE FEE PAYMENT

If your organization meets the requirements to become licensed, Award USA will prepare your license agreement for review and signature. You may also complete the Award Center Application for Financial Assistance, if needed. A senior leader within your organization will sign the agreement for Award USA to countersign. An Annual License Fee must be paid before training begins and you are authorized to deliver the Award.

STEP 6

DELIVERING THE AWARD – INITIAL SET-UP AND TRAINING

Award USA is committed to providing high quality support and training for adults in the Award. Once licensed, your Award Team will be supported by a dedicated Program Officer. They will guide you and your team to become fully trained, launch the Award, recruit participants, and successfully deliver the Award with the young people who wish to participate.

Our multi-level training framework includes both mandatory and supplementary training opportunities, designed to equip Award Teams with specific knowledge and skill to deliver the Award. Currently completed virtually, the training program incorporates a blend of experiential learning, peer support, instructor led training, and a host of helpful tools and templates. **A minimum of two adults must complete the in person training to get started.**

STEP 7

RECRUIT YOUR FIRST PARTICIPANTS AND MANAGE THE AWARD YEAR

After Award Leaders receive training, it is important to prepare for the launch of the program and have several key components in place:

- ▶ Promotional strategy, including information meetings for parents and young people.
- ▶ Registration process, including medical and consent forms, and participant fees.
- ▶ Online Record Book activation and training for participants.
- ▶ Program scheduling for the year, including regular meetings with participants, planning for the Adventurous Journey training sessions, practice and qualifying journeys, and Award ceremony.
- ▶ Acquisition of materials/gear.
- ▶ Ongoing budget management.

“

This Award is more of a journey. It offered an opportunity to discover myself. Before this Award, I never thought I'd become an entrepreneur. I set goals and challenged myself to think outside the box and pursue my passion. It not only empowers me, but empowers those around me."

Elvin

Gold Award Participant,
Hawaii, USA



“

The Award was my gateway to freedom and confidence. My Award encouraged me to recognize my true potential. It pushed me to reach beyond my own capabilities. It let me seek new adventures, explore unbeaten paths, and taught me to dare to dream."

Hannah Cockcroft MBE

Award Holder

Paralympic Gold Medalist,
Great Britain

“

Young people are the future of tomorrow. It is vital to explore your potential and make use of it. If you want to discover yourself – or change something for yourself, or the world – then the Award is for you! It is the starting point of success and you will be rewarded in ways you never realized existed. Go for it!”

Farhana

Gold Award Holder,
Bangladesh



“

It is definitely a unique and interesting experience. It encourages you to do a lot of extracurricular activities. In school, I have mostly academic subjects, but the Award gives me a chance to do things that I like. It has allowed me to find my own identity.”

Shruti

Silver Award Participant,
New Jersey, USA

Please contact
info@usaward.org
for more information
or to request an application



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