

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **I've never heard of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award. What is it?**

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award – or simply the Award – is a global youth development program for 14 to 24-year-olds. It was founded in 1956 by its namesake HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, to help young people build confidence, resilience, and problem-solving skills. The Award has over 1.1 million active participants and millions of alumni from over 130 countries and territories.

## **I've been in youth development for many years. Why haven't I heard of it?**

While the national program – Award USA – is relatively new in the United States, the Award is a founding member of The Big Six Alliance which was established in 1995 and comprised of the world's largest youth development programs: The Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), The Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), The World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM), The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), and The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC). Collectively, they reach more than 100 million young people in over 200 countries and territories.

## **How is this different than the National Honor Society, an Eagle Award, or the Girl Scout Gold Award?**

Available for all young people aged 14 to 24, regardless of their background, culture, physical ability, skills and interests, the Award provides tools and support for young people to develop a 100% personalized program to support their unique potential and development. The Award provides a framework that accommodates an array of new and pre-existing community service, physical fitness, skill building, and outdoor adventure experiences including scouting, team sports, performing arts, and many others. The Award can be attained while pursuing National Honor Society, Eagle Award and/or a Girl Scout Gold Award.

## **Why do this instead of all the other activities available?**

Each young person who takes part in the Award learns a skill, improves their physical fitness, volunteers in their community, and experiences a team adventure in a new environment. Serving as a framework that enhances their current activities, the Award complements other extracurricular programs and, by providing participants with program support through age 24, allows them to extend their pursuits well into young adulthood. The Award provides a globally recognized certification.

## **How is the British Royal Family involved in the Award?**

While the Award is a living legacy of its founder and namesake, HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, in his lifetime he served as a patron of over 800 charitable organizations focused on the environment, industry, sports, and education. Today, the Award is administered by The Duke of



Edinburgh's International Award Foundation, an independent not-for-profit entity established in the United Kingdom as a Royal Charity that acts as a coordinating body for Award sponsors in other nations.

**With the passing of The Duke of Edinburgh will the Award cease operating?**

No. Since Prince Philip's death in 2021, and prior to his retirement from public life in 2017, his son HRH Prince Edward, The Earl of Wessex, assumed his role as the Award's primary patron.

**Why is "HRH" used so often in your publications?**

In the British monarchy, the title of Royal Highness is associated with the rank of prince or princess. When used as a third-person reference, it is gender-specific: His Royal Highness or Her Royal Highness, both abbreviated HRH. As the spouse of Her Royal Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Philip's formal title is routinely used in publications.

**How much money does the Award give to each participant?**

The Award is not a scholarship program. Award USA's fundraising supports the administration of the national program and helps young people cover costs associated with the completion of the curriculum.

**Are universities, colleges, workplaces, or other competitive scholarships familiar with and/or impressed by the Award?**

The Award is a time-tested and globally-recognized youth development program on par with The Young Men's/Women's Christian Association and The World Organization of the Scout Movement. Given its British heritage, it is particularly well-known in the 53 Commonwealth of Nations member states and has expanded its reach to young people in over 130 nations and territories. Award USA was chartered to support participants in the United States and is responsible for expanding the Award's presence and reputation among US-based educational organizations and corporations. As the number of international students at US universities and colleges increases, the Award's recognition is also growing.

**Why do you say the Award will make young people "#world ready"?**

There are over 1.3 billion young people aged 14 to 24 in the world today; the largest youth generation in history. As a compliment to classroom-based activities, the Award champions non-formal education focused on exposing young people to challenging real-world experiences that build character, resilience, and self-confidence and empower them to thrive in the modern world. Participants who take on the challenge of the Gold Award often travel for their Gold project. And all Award Holders are welcomed into a Global Alumni Award Holder Network.

**As a Royal Charity, why do you need to fundraise?**

The Award is administered by The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation (IAF), an independent not-for-profit entity established in the United Kingdom as a Royal Charity that acts as a coordinating body for Award sponsors in other nations including Award USA in the United States. While IAF has generously supported the program's US launch, Award USA is an independent 501(c)(3) organization that is obligated to become a self-sustaining operator.



**What do you use my money – donations, registration fees, etc. – for?**

Award USA's fundraising supports the administration and operations of the national program. From training volunteers and convening youth agency leaders to expanding the Award's national footprint and establishing new Award units, Award USA is committed to helping young people pursue their passion/purpose/place and regularly provides participants with financial support to cover costs associated with the completion of the curriculum.