



59 The Spinney
Sidcup
Kent
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www.benbullenadventures.co.uk

Monday 11th December 2023

Dear Participant and Parents,

We're very proud to be working with Hayes School to help you through the expedition section of your Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. The expedition section involves a practice and a qualifying expedition and this letter sets out the details of both. There is also a training day on Wednesday 3rd January – please see a separate letter from the school regarding this.

Practice Expedition – Friday 14th to Saturday 15th June 2024

For the practice expedition we'll meet outside East Grinstead Station, Railway Approach, East Grinstead RH19 1EB at 9.30am. From here you'll walk to Blacklands Farm Guide Camp on the Friday, camp overnight and walk back to East Grinstead on Saturday. For students being collected, the approximate time for this will be between 1pm-4pm and we advise car sharing wherever possible.

Qualifier Expedition – Friday 21st to Saturday 22nd June 2024

We'll have two start points for this expedition so half the group will be meeting us at Keston Ponds at 9.30am on Saturday while the other half meet on the village green in Pratts Bottom at 9.30am. All groups will walk to Waylands Scout Camp in Westerham. On Sunday those who started at Keston Ponds will walk to Pratts Bottom and those who started at Pratts Bottom will walk to Keston Ponds. We'll let you know which start point you need to get to after the training day.

Walking will be done in groups of between 4-7 and students will have already organised their walking groups in school. Leaders will walk with their groups for part of the first day of the practice, but after that the groups will walk unaccompanied, meeting leaders at checkpoints along the way. Leaders will have phone numbers for students and vice versa, although only two participants per group will keep their phone on them – all other phones will be wrapped up and sealed to ensure they're not used. Phone usage is permitted for three reasons for the two who have their phones:

1. So a leader can get in touch with the group
2. So the group can call a leader if needed
3. For taking photos or videos

You'll need to bring all the items mentioned on the kit list attached with this letter. We'll provide tents, Trangias and maps. We have enough rucksacks for most of you but will find out on the training day who needs one so please find out if you have a rucksack of 55litres or more (the type that covers the whole of your back!)

Also included with this letter are some training notes which will help students prepare – and help parents who will no doubt be asked to help!

Payment for the expedition should be made to the school. I will need you to complete our online medical information form. It asks for the eDofE number but this isn't necessary unless you do know it. The link is:

https://www.benbullenadventures.co.uk/enroll/?expedition_ids=12753&group=HayesBronze24

Please complete the link by 8am on Wednesday 20th December 2023.

Feel free to email me if you have any questions about the expedition section–
ben@benbullenadventures.co.uk

Yours sincerely

Ben Bullen