

Introduction

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Millennium Volunteers (MV) is an additional programme to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and is designed to recognise and accredit volunteering undertaken by young people between the ages of 16 and 24, in an Award context throughout England.

Funded and accredited by the Department for Education and Employment, Volunteers agree a volunteer plan for a 12-month period and are awarded a MV Certificate for 100 hours, or a MV Award of Excellence after completing 200 hours.

Benefits

- Provides nationally accreditation of volunteering activities
- Helps participants gain training and experience in their chosen field
- Gives the participants the opportunity to get involved and have a say in the development of the MV programme
- Provides an excellent framework for personal development
- Develops the volunteering already undertaken
- Opportunity to develop well trained young leaders
- Recruitment and Retention tool for older Cadets
- Recruitment and Retention tool for new Staff members
- Expenses can be claimed up to £30 per completed plan
- Funding available for other training

Eligibility

All Cadets and Staff aged between 16 and 24 years of age and involved (participation, organising or assisting) with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award are eligible for this award.

The last possible day to register on a MV programme is the day before the participants 25th birthday. All plans must be completed by the participants 26th birthday.

Activities for Award Participants

Cadets and Staff working towards a Duke of Edinburgh's Award can dovetail it with the MV.

Service Section

All time spent on the Service section can be counted towards MV, including any time spent in training.

Skills Section

Only a small number of Skills Section activities have discernable community benefits and advice should be sought from the Wing DEA Officer should be consulted if there is a doubt on the activity counting.

Helping at Awards Groups

Assisting with Duke of Edinburgh's Awards Groups counts as a MV activity.

Residential Projects (Gold Award Only)

If the project has obvious community benefits – eg conservation or Service placements then all time spent volunteering may count.

Additional Hours

If additional hours are needed to gain a MV Award, any volunteering activity, which has obvious community benefit, can be used. The activity should be agreed with the Unit DEA Officer first.

Activities for Young Award Leaders

All hours spent volunteering by SNCO's; CWO's and Adult Staff who help with the organisation of the Award can use all hours spent volunteering within the ATC towards a MV Award.

Working with an Award Group, Award related administration, fundraising, supervising and assessing expeditions are all examples of counting activities.

Hours spent training can count up to a suggested maximum of 50%. Training opportunities can include:

- New Leaders training courses
- Basic Expedition Training Award (BELA) courses
- First Aid training
- Mountain Leader/Walking Group Leader training
- Sports and expedition qualifications.

When longer ATC Activities (weekend events, Annual Camp) are used a maximum of 8 hours per full day may be claimed.

Volunteer Expenses

A principle of MV is that there should be no cost to the individual volunteer.

Expenses can be claimed up to £30 on completion of the plan.

In addition, some training may be subsidised - please contact the Wing DEA Officer.

MV Administration

Each Cadet and member of Adult Staff wishing to become a volunteer should complete a Volunteer Plan and ask their Commanding Officer or Unit DEA Officer to forward to Wing HQ.

A Record Book will be returned. Which should be completed at each counting session.

On completion of the award, units should send an Award Application Form together with an expenses form to Wing HQ.

Expenses

Expenses can be claimed on certain DEA Items held by Wing up to the value of £30. This will enable the Award holders to become effective DEA Leaders in future.

A list of items available will be published from time to time by Wing HQ.

Guidance to Participants

Giving time to the local community is a two-way process and there are a number of steps that can be taken to get the most out of each volunteer plan:

- Record all of your volunteering hours and ask your project supervisor to sign each session in the Record Book.
- Briefings should cover what is expected from the volunteer, any relevant policies together with Fire/First Aid policies. In addition the volunteer should be given a tour of the building and introduced.
- If skills are required for the volunteering, this should be provided.
- ATC members can claim hours for most activities, however it needs to be borne in mind that a maximum of 8 hours can be claimed for each day.