

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is an Internationally recognised Youth Development Program run throughout 140 countries in the world. It aims to empower young people aged 14 – 25 to develop their full potential in a range of areas. The Award program focuses on fostering the lifelong skills of perseverance, resilience, team-work and optimism. While physical fitness is certainly an asset during Adventurous Journeys, determination and a positive attitude are the most pivotal attributes! The Award program is open to all students in Years 9 to 12 at Snowy Mountains Grammar School.

There are three levels of the Award Program with a minimum age requirement for each level: Bronze (14 years), Silver (15 years), and Gold (16 years). Students are encouraged to begin their Award journey in Year 9 or 10 at the Bronze Level and progress through each in subsequent years. The Award Program requires students to complete activities in four sections: Physical Recreation, Skill, Service and Adventurous Journeys. Each level of the Award requires an increase in the length of time commitment required.

Physical Recreation:

- Bronze Level students are required to complete 3 months of a physical activity (e.g. netball, soccer, rugby, karate, gym, mountain biking, swimming training, dancing) with a one-hour commitment each week outside of school hours.

Skill:

- Bronze Level students are required to complete 3 months of a skill that is non-physical in nature (e.g. guitar, debating, chess, art, cooking, carpentry, sewing, agriculture) with a one-hour commitment each week outside of school hours.

Community Service:

- Bronze Level students are required to complete 3 months of a community service (e.g. Helping to run a school co-curricular activity, visiting a local nursing home, coaching a junior sports team, wildlife carer) with a one-hour commitment each week outside of school hours.

** Bronze Award students are required to select one of the components above to complete a total of 6 months of activities. This is recorded as their MAJOR component.

Adventurous Journey:

- Bronze Level students are required to plan for and navigate two wilderness expeditions of 2 days and 1 night each either run separately or concurrently. These expeditions will be organised and run by SMGS staff. The first trip will be run from April 4th-7th and will satisfy the requirements for both the Practice and Qualifying Journeys. An overseas trip to Cambodia will also be run from December 6th -19th and will also fulfil the



Adventurous Journey requirements for Bronze, Silver and/or Gold Levels of the Award. Students are not permitted to use family holidays or school curriculum camps to fulfil this requirement.

Students record their activities in an Online Record Book and need to have a suitably qualified person (over the age of 18yrs, not related to them & possesses a Working With Children Check-WWCC) to verify each of their activities. This should be a coach, trainer or teacher who organises, mentors or oversees the activity.

Participation in the Bronze Award involves a \$172 application fee made through an online payment directly to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The Active Kids Vouchers are able to be used as part payment. Any costs associated with the Adventurous Journeys will be added to School accounts at the time of attendance. Further information regarding the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Program can be found at the following website <https://dukeofed.com.au/>.

If you would like your child to join the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Program at SMGS please encourage him/her to email Mrs Bell on melissa.bell@smgs.nsw.edu.au directly, expressing their interest in the Award program at SMGS. Once this email has been received details regarding the application process will be forwarded to your child. Students will be participate in an information session at school and will be encouraged to seek clarification on any points during this time.

I look forward to your child's participation in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award at SMGS.
Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Melissa Bell
Secondary Teacher
Head of Faculty – Educational Support & Enrichment

Mr Martin Philpott
Director of Activities