



NORTHPINE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Proud to deliver



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Dear Parents/Carers,

Your son/daughter is invited to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award that is run by the school as an extra-curricular activity. To help you understand a little more of what it involves, I am outlining some of the basic information.

The Award program is a world-wide scheme that is non-denominational and non-political. The Duke of Edinburgh is the patron, and the Governor of Queensland is his representative in Queensland. It is run under the Department of Education.

Aim

To challenge young people to use their talents and be equipped and empowered to achieve their personal best. It is designed to encourage young people learn to take responsibility for their goals and choices and develop independence. It also allows opportunity for young people to become connected to and actively engaged within their immediate community and make a real difference to society through their positive contributions and involvement. The Award is designed around each candidate, so that each person works through at their own pace, and chooses tasks to suit their abilities. Developing decision-making skills and planning for all possible situations is also one of the main aims.

Entry

Awardees must be at least 14 years old (or in Year 9), and the scheme continues through to the age of 25 years old. The cost of \$164.00 (including GST for Bronze level) is the initial registration fee, paid to Northpine and we pass it on to the Award Office in Brisbane which includes an online record book and insurance cover. Each subsequent level has a different cost (Silver - \$169.00 and Gold - \$174.00).

Scheme Organisation

It operates at three levels Bronze, Silver and Gold; each progressively more challenging. Students can enter at any level provided they meet the age requirements. Each participant will be given an online account called the Online Record Book (ORB) where they record and track their progress through the Award.

Requirements for Awards

Candidates must undertake four levels of activity. These are of the candidates own choosing, in consultation with the co-ordinators. The activities must be undertaken mostly outside school hours or as a voluntary task in free time at school (e.g. lunch hours). The minimum requirements at each level are summarised in the ORB.

Briefly they are -

- Community Service: serving the community in some form which could include undertaking specialist training such as First Aid and Lifesaving.
- Skills (a hobby or interest): a huge range of different interests can be studied here. The main requirement is for the candidate to find someone, other than a family member, to assess their skills after completing the time requirements.

- Physical Fitness program (or involvement in a sports club) can be organised activities such as soccer, netball etc., or a personal fitness training program
- Adventurous Journey: this requires more detailed explanation below.

If you would like more details, separate brochures are available to explain what the requirements are for each activity, and the range of possible activities. You could also visit the website at <https://dukeofed.com.au/>.

The Adventurous Journey Section

This is the one activity organised by the school, and the one that provides the greatest challenge, and so this needs more explanation.

At Northpine the Adventurous Journey are completed as expeditions centred on bushwalking, as this matches our staff expertise and qualifications. Staff involved must have completed Expedition Leadership Training to qualify as a registered operator. However, other activities such as canoeing, sailing, horse riding or bike riding may be undertaken in consultation with parents, but each would have to organise their own suitable assessor and trainers.

The adventurous journey section does involve risk. We aim to minimise this as far as possible, but hiking and navigating in the bush can be hazardous. A risk minimisation plan has been prepared, and parents are able to view this if they so wish. We try to take into account the past experience and the timidity of the candidates in each group; however, you need to be aware that they will still be confronted by some elements of risk.

We would advise parents not to go making any expensive purchases until the candidates have tried at least one expedition. Unless they already have equipment, it can be an expensive exercise to purchase all the gear and then find that it is not what they expected. For this reason, as well as the fact that good equipment is expensive, we provide some equipment as part of the camp fee as well as operating a hire scheme.

Cost

This is often the major worry of parents, and we hope that no one is excluded for financial reasons. We take the trouble of operating a scheme for the hiring of expensive equipment at greatly reduced rates. If there are still difficulties, please let us know.

For the Bronze participants the cost of the first camp is \$65 – this covers the cost of the camp permits; transport to the camp from the College; hire of a backpack and compass; a shared tent and radio; other incidental costs of the camp such as maps; as well as a \$20 deposit refunded after the final Bronze camp. The following two camps are \$35 each. The total cost for the three camps is \$135 (\$65 + \$35 + \$35) On top of this there could be the hiring fees if other gear needs to be hired such as sleeping mats and cookers.

For Silver participants it is the same for the first two camps but the third camp is to Moreton Island and this is more expensive due to the ferry and support vehicle costs. The camp fee for the Silver assessment to Moreton Island is generally around \$130. The total cost for the three camps is \$230 (\$65 + \$35 + \$130). On top of this there could be the hiring fees if other gear needs to be hired such as sleeping mats and cookers. Note that for direct entrants into Silver there is an additional training camp.

Gold expeditions are planned for by Gold awardees and the costs of the expedition will be determined by the actual costs of the expedition.

Time commitment

Bronze candidates and those directly entering Silver or Gold must attend the afterschool training sessions and camp, and then a practice camp before they can participate in the qualifying camp. The afterschool training sessions are listed in the college calendar. The training camp will involve a weekend, the practice and qualifying camps will involve an overnight camp on a Sunday and Monday. Extra camps may be required to allow candidates to achieve a safe level of expertise before they venture out on their own. The

ability to run camps outside the proposed times is usually very limited, so please note the calendar provided, and the due dates for notification/fees.

Equipment Hire

The following outlines the current prices for a weekend.

- Sleeping mats - \$2
- Small Trangia cookers - \$6 (including a small fuel bottle)
- All equipment must be returned on time clean and dry.

Please note that late return will mean extra hire fees, as this equipment may be required by another group on the following weekend. Equipment is hired from the Thursday before the camp and returned on or before the following Thursday.

Note that all participants are charged a \$20 security deposit that is refunded (if the gear is returned clean and on time following each camp) AFTER the last camp. Parents AND Participants are notified if this deposit has been charged after each camp.

As the main aim is to allow candidates to make decisions and plan for themselves, please allow them to plan their meals as much as possible. However, food can be expensive if candidates are given total free reign to shop. Expensive freeze dried meals are not necessary on the short trips undertaken, and food should be kept simple, lightweight and inexpensive. Candidates are advised on the best foods for sustained energy and these generally consist of cereals, pastas, noodles, rice, cheese, nuts, etc. Junk food is not advisable, as it does not provide sustained energy or nutrition. Try to keep food costs down to a minimum.

Specialised clothing is not required. Fashion has no place in the bush, and most wear old but strong clothing, second hand gear is ideal. For example, polar fleece jumpers can be picked up for a few dollars at St Vincent de Pauls or Salvo type shops. Light weight boots are generally adequate and joggers may be worn. Detailed instructions are given in the training classes held before the first camp. Any new boots should be broken in at least 4 weeks before a trip, to avoid serious blisters.

Transport

The participants are taken to and from each camp using the college buses/cars. This cost is included in each camp.

Delays to their walking schedule of up to several hours can occasionally occur, and parents will be notified if possible if this occurs.


Electronic Permission Notes - CareMonkey

As you know we take the health and safety of our participants very seriously and also we need to get parental permission and payment for each camp. It is therefore important that this process be as streamlined as possible. As a result we have chosen to go with an online solution called "CareMonkey".

CareMonkey is an innovative parent-controlled electronic medical form for schools, clubs and other groups with a duty of care. It's an electronic version of the paper-based forms you currently need to fill in for excursions, camps, enrolments...and the like. It provides parents with the opportunity to update medical information promptly and accurately while providing us leaders of the Dukes program with instant access to the emergency information provided by you. We will be using the CareMonkey app in the best interests of the children whilst also reducing the burden on parents to fill out the same information on multiple forms throughout the year.

Parents can use a PC, laptop, tablet or smart phone to enter the details including:

- ✚ emergency contacts
- ✚ medical contacts
- ✚ medical checklist including asthma, allergies, seizures, diabetes
- ✚ health and ambulance insurance details
- ✚ notes and other care instructions from parents

 and more...

As a parent we will send you an email from the CareMonkey system inviting you to enter the details for your child in an electronic medical form. From our perspective, this information will only be accessible by the relevant leaders for your child. However, if you choose, you will also be able to share this information with anyone else you trust with your child's care - their grandparents, their child-minder, their sports club etc. Importantly, you choose who accesses this information.

You don't need to do anything until you receive the email requesting the information. Please feel free to contact the college and ask for Darryl Hobson if you have any questions. You can also visit the CareMonkey website for more information: www.caremonkey.com.

Final words

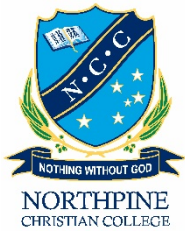
This may answer some of your questions about how the Award works at Northpine. Please contact me if you have any further questions or concerns.

The Award requires a high level of parent as well as school support, and if you decide to take on this commitment, we thank you for your contribution and assistance. An information night is planned for all candidates on **Wednesday February 12, 2020 at the College in classroom S4 at 7.00pm**. More information will be provided and you will have the opportunity to discuss the opportunities that this program can provide for your child.

Yours sincerely



Darryl Hobson
Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme – Co-ordinator



NORTHPINE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD



2020 CALENDAR

DATES

TYPE OF EXPEDITION

Wed Feb 12

D of E Information Night
(7-8:30pm at Northpine)

Tue Mar 3

Expedition Prep 1
(3:30-5:30pm at Northpine)

Tue Mar 10

Expedition Prep 2
(3:30-5:30pm at Northpine)

Tue Mar 13

Expedition Prep 3
(3:30-5:30pm at Northpine)

Fri Mar 20 – Sun Mar 22

Expedition Training for all new participants
(D'Aguilar National Park)

Fri May 15 – Sun May 17

Silver Training
(Kenilworth SF)

Sun Jun 14 – Mon Jun 15

Bronze Practice
(D'Aguilar National Park)

Fri Jul 31 – Sun Aug 2

Silver Practice
(Bribie Island)

Sun Aug 16 – Mon Aug 17

Bronze Qualifying
(D'Aguilar National Park)

Fri Oct 16 – Mon Oct 19

Silver Assessment
(Moreton Island)

*** All students starting the Award for the first time (direct entrants) must attend the 3 training sessions and the first Training Camp.**

- Drop off and Pick up point for camps is given on the camp information letter.
- Fees must be paid a month in advance of the camp date, unless arrangements are made beforehand - this is to ensure that forest camping permits and ferry booking are made well in advance.
- Gold practice and assessment expeditions are planned entirely by candidates, with dates subject to negotiation with co-ordinators.