



GOLD URBAN ODYSSEY EXPEDITION OVERVIEW

The Gold Expedition is the last and the most challenging of all the Adventurous Journeys throughout the levels of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. It requires the skills and knowledge gained during previous levels to get through safely and comfortably; and, is the most demanding but also the most satisfying to complete.



WHAT IS THE URBAN ODYSSEY?

The Urban Odyssey is a unique Duke of Edinburgh experience which promotes student leadership and independence in an ever-changing urban landscape. Each program is an unfolding, competitive and challenging adventure through Sydney's beautiful bushland, beaches and bays; before finally venturing into the bustle of the CBD. Teams will complete various challenges for points along the way and be responsible for managing their own budget, meals and transportation.

The Urban Odyssey presents some of the usual challenges of a traditional backpacking expedition, while enabling participants to develop confidence and life-skills for the future. It is an exciting alternative to our traditional Hike and Pack & Paddle expedition options.

THE URBAN CHALLENGE GUIDES & 24HR PROGRAM COORDINATOR

The Urban Challenge provides qualified and experience Guides, whose responsibility is to oversee the expedition and ensure students are on the right track but it is not their role to "lead the group" in the traditional sense. The Guide will take a more passive role during a Gold Urban Odyssey, particularly for the Test, in comparison to Bronze & Silver levels. This allows for students to truly step-up to their full potential and excel. The Program Coordinator is available 24hrs to provide support to the program and the guides via our extensive communication equipment such as, mobile phones and SPOT tracking devices.



Pre-expedition

Participants are given a log-in for our website to retrieve their route planning documents for the first day of their expedition. Parents are also given a separate log-in to read the teams blogs, view their photos during their expedition and even join in via Parent Challenges!

The First Morning

Upon arrival at the start location, students are issued with their hire/purchase equipment; the group gear such as methylated fuel stoves; and the team satchel which contains opal cards, a smart phone, an iPad, a digital camera, and money to purchase select meals and to help with completing challenges. Each student is given an official team role e.g. the team leader, the communicator or the treasurer, which becomes their responsibility to fulfil throughout the journey. Once all the gear is packed and the first leg is planned, teams set-off on their 4-day Odyssey.

During the Odyssey

The Practice & Test are both different hikes, but based on a similar structure of modules.

The Practice = BUSH > BAY > BUSTLE

The Test = BUSH > BEACH > BUSTLE

Each module has a different type of challenge involved and new ways for the teams to earn points. The participants must learn to rely on each other for support and to build team morale. Problem solving is a key skill utilised in this Odyssey and participants are expected to focus on achieving the best possible solution. Please note that participants still carry full rucksacks with all their gear, tents and certain meals. There is a lot of hiking involved in these expeditions and it is no easy feat - you will be tested, so make sure you have your good walking shoes on. The route is a secret until the day prior so be ready for anything and brace yourself for an adventure!

Post-expedition

At the end of their expedition students debrief with their Guide, pack up all equipment and hand back any hired or borrowed gear. The students can use the Parent Log-in given prior to the camp to view their team's blogs and download their team's photos.

All the points will be tallied up from the scoresheets kept by the Guide, and extra points can be earned for the amount of money the team has left over (which is donated to our World Vision sponsor kids) and the condition in which their equipment is returned. The winning team will be announced shortly after the expedition!