

The Bronze Expeditions are the beginning of the passage through the Duke of Edinburgh Adventurous Journeys. The Preliminary Training and Bronze Expeditions are important in laying the foundations of basic navigation, campcraft and team skills to build on throughout the following Silver and Gold levels. Skills learnt and experiences gained are also valuable to students as they emerge from adolescence to adulthood.

Bronze Preliminary Training

The Preliminary Training is conducted at Somerset Base on the first day and covers areas **essential for safety and general well-being** whilst on expedition. Some areas covered include: **planning** and preparation of an expedition; **navigation**; basic first aid; food, water and **equipment** requirements; and **campcraft**. Students will learn how to **repack** their gear correctly and will complete a route plan on the first day in preparation for the following expedition.



Practice Expedition

Our aim at Somerset is to provide an open environment in which the students gain a solid base of knowledge and skills, which can then be further built upon at the Silver level. The Bronze Practice Expedition will take the fundamentals learnt during the Preliminary Training and ground them in a real-time experience. The students start their Practice Hike mid-morning on the second day after finalising their Training. **Students are given roles** throughout the expedition to improve on the skills they learn during the Training and the Group Leader gives **lessons and training along the way**. When they reach their campsite they are involved in a session that covers all aspects of the camping experience.



Qualifying Expedition

The Qualifying or Test Expedition has the aim of allowing students to apply the skills they gained during the Preliminary Training and Practice Expedition in a **practical setting**. Students are given the **responsibility** of leadership and ownership of their expedition with the Group Leader being in a position to simply supervise the expedition, assess the application of student's skills and step in only for safety or to get students back on track. Before starting off, a check of equipment and route plans will occur with the expedition beginning directly afterwards.



On the final day, students pack up their campsite and head out onto the last leg of their hike. All students end up back at Somerset Base at the end of their expedition to clean / dry any gear used for the expedition, pack up all equipment neatly and **debrief**.