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DUNEDIN NEW ZEALAND

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your son has expressed an interest in the Duke of Edinburgh's Hillary Award Scheme. For those of you who do not know how the Scheme works, I will give you a brief outline below. It is important to look at the [Duke of Edinburgh's Hillary Award web site](#) as all the information that you need is on their website. All registrations and payments for the Award are now online via the website.

The Silver Award for your child's age is divided into four sections, all of which must be completed to the required standard before the Award can be presented.

Each section covers a different range of skills and takes varying lengths of time to complete ([click here if you want the online information](#)).

### **1) Voluntary Service**

The aim of the Voluntary Service section is to give useful service to others in the community and to see how your service can make a positive difference. It is designed to improve skills such as teamwork and communication and building self-confidence as a result. By committing to this voluntary service, it is hoped that participants will be introduced to a lifetime role of community involvement and voluntary service. There are plenty of suggestions on what you can do on the website: [Click here](#)

### **2) Skills**

The aim of the Skills section is to improve on an existing skill or learn something new. It is all about giving something a go, learning something, and getting better at it, giving yourself a sense of achievement and well-being as a result. Colleges, Universities, and employers like to see more than your academic record—they want to see that you are a well-rounded individual with life skills too! There are quite literally hundreds that can be chosen, and a list can be found on the website [Click here](#). If you have any issues with choosing an activity for your skill or need to check that it is actually a skill and not an activity that will be under the other sections please contact Mr Kotkamp. Additionally, I will need to know which knowledgeable non-related adult is going to supervise and assess the skill being undertaken. However, most of this information will be part of your online requirement when registering your chosen activity.

### **3) Physical Recreation**

The aim of the Physical Recreation section of the Award is to encourage participants to improve their health and fitness, whatever their starting point. Participants can choose to do a team sport, solo sport, or any healthy activity. It could be something they already do regularly, have tried before, or something completely new. [Click here](#) for examples of things to do.

#### 4) Expedition

The requirement for Silver is a 3 day/2 night expedition. This includes sleeping in tents, cooking their own meals, and walking between 40 to 50kms if tramping, with a minimum of 7 hours planned activity. The routes for practice and qualifying journey will be finalise, however will depend on weather or available help. **You may consider doing the cycle section if there is enough interest. We have successfully done this over the years to look at different modes of travel and students can then choose which mode best suits them if they were to progress to do the Gold Award.**

Parents with experience in the outdoors are most welcome to take their son/daughter on a tramp or bike with other students that are unable to make this tramp. As with all groups, I will need to be notified and shown planning from the group of students going.

| Silver Award            | Service  | Skills   | Physical Recreation  | Adventurous Journey  |
|-------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| <b>Time Requirement</b> | All of these Sections for 6 months (26 weeks) 1 hour a week or 4 hours every 28 days.<br><br>If you are a Direct Entrant (have not completed Bronze) then you must complete two Sections for 6 months (26 weeks) and 1 Section for 12 months (52 weeks). |  |  | Preliminary Training(s)<br>Practice Journeys<br>Qualifying Journey |
| <b>Regularity</b>       | At least one hour per week for the number of months chosen (or 4 hours every 28 days).   | At least one hour per week for the number of months chosen (or 4 hours every 28 days). | At least one hour per week for the number of months chosen (or 4 hours every 28 days). | 3 days, 2 nights<br><br>with 7 hours of purposeful effort per day. |

#### The process

- Training - all participants need to cover the preliminary training no matter what the venture is. This training will be done at school by Mr Kotkamp.
- Practice Journey - all participants need to undertake the appropriate number of practice journeys 2 1/2 days and 2 nights, with 7 hours of activity per day. **Experienced parents are most welcome to take groups if they wish and have time.**
- Qualifying Journey – **Parents with adequate experience are most welcome to take groups out for the qualifying venture - 3 days/2 night, however, the school generally runs the journey straight after NCEA exams at the end of November.**

Participants are expected to supply/borrow the following equipment for the expedition.

Essential items for tramping are: -

- Boots or adequate walking shoes
- Waterproofs- rain coat
- Sleeping bag – 3 seasons
- Thermals (which will also include hat gloves)
- Pack - approx. 65litres

Essential items for biking are: -

- Mountain Bike (very good working order)
- Helmet
- Waterproof – raincoat
- Sleeping bag and sleeping mat
- Thermals (which will also include hat gloves)

However, if there is a problem in acquiring any equipment we can get hold of a limited number of items. If your son/daughter's group wish to do the bike, then the school do have 6 very good mountain bikes that they could borrow if they do not have an appropriate bike.

The cost of doing the Silver Award is \$86.25 (*which is payable directly to the Duke of Edinburgh Hillary Awards on registration. The easiest way of paying online is via a credit card*) plus any costs associated with the practise tramp, e.g. *Transport, food, hut tickets, etc...*

If you require any additional information, please contact Mr Kotkamp.

Email: [ronny.kotkamp@mcglashan.school.nz](mailto:ronny.kotkamp@mcglashan.school.nz)