



John
McGlashan
College
DUNEDIN NEW ZEALAND

February 2023

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 Gold Award for your child's age is divided into five 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 Gold is a 4 day / 3-night journey. This includes sleeping in tents or huts, cooking their own meals, and walking around 65kms if tramping, with a minimum of 8 hours planned activity. Possible trips could be the: Greenstone/Caples; Greenstone/Mavora and Humpridge tracks. Or if the group wants to bike they could completed the Alps to Ocean Cycleway for example. However, the routes for practice and qualifying journey will be finalise depending on group ability, weather or available help.

5) Gold Residential Project

The Gold Residential Project is an additional section at Gold level and is an opportunity to use many of the skills developed during the overall Award experience such as teamwork and leadership. This involves spending five consecutive days and four nights in a residential setting where you are working towards a common purpose. Participants have the opportunity to share a purposeful experience with people who are not their usual companions and work towards a common goal, set out by the participants themselves. Through the Gold Residential Project participants will meet new people, explore life in an unfamiliar environment, develop new skills and, hopefully, have a life changing experience. For a check list to see if your residential project meets the requirements, [click here](#) or other examples could include the following:

- Spirit of New Zealand
- Outward Bound
- Youth Camp leader within New Zealand or overseas
- Voluntary work within our national parks
- Restoration project

Gold Award	Service	Skills	Physical Recreation	Residential Project	Adventurous Journey
Time Requirement	All of these Sections for 12 months (52 weeks) 1 hour a week or 4 hours every 28 days. If you are a Direct Entrant (have not completed Bronze or Silver) then you must complete 1 Sections for an additional 6 months (26 weeks)			Must be over 16yrs old and registered for Gold	Preliminary Training(s) Practice Journeys Qualifying Journey 3 days, 2 nights with 7 hours of purposeful effort per day.
Regularity	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).	5 days and 4 nights With 8 hours of purposeful activity per day With people not known to participant	

The process

- Training - all participants need to cover the preliminary training no matter what their 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 3 days and 2 nights, with 8 hours of activity per day (joining one of the tramping clubs tramps if you want too, see Mr Cartwright for details of their next tramp).
- Qualifying Journey – **4 days/3 night, with 8 hours of activity per day. The school will generally run the journey at the start of Term 3 holidays. However, we will need to find dates that best suit the group and take into account everyone's school, sport and/or work commitments.**

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's group wish to do the bike, then the school do have a limited supply of mountain bikes that they could borrow if they do not have an appropriate bike.

The cost of doing the Gold Award is \$115.00 (*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, accommodation, etc...*

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

Email: ronny.kotkamp@mcglashan.school.nz