Expedition Planning Challenge
"The Race is On"

Scouts
Durham

What is the Expedition Planning Challenge?

The Expedition Planning Challenge is designed to challenge Scouts, Explorer Scouts and Scout Network members to test their expedition planning skills, by racing to complete the plans needed for an expedition.

We will publish a league table to show how we have scored each set of plans and the time taken to complete the challenge.

Expedition Planning Challenge Categories

The Expedition Planning Challenge has multiple categories.

Categories are initially defined by whether or not you use on-line mapping tools for route planning. We then break down the categories depending on whether you are planning a 2, 3 or 4 day expedition.

Entrants may choose to use on-line mapping software such as that provided by:

- eDofE (if you're already doing your DofE Award you'll know how to log in and access this)
- Ordinance Survey OS Maps (note that there is a free 7 day trial which you could use)

Whether or not you choose not to use on-line mapping software, we'll send you a suitable excerpt of a map (under Ordinance Survey's education use).

The six categories are as follows (you'll choose a category when you fill in the initial registration form)

	Using Online Mapping	**Not using Online Mapping**
Scouts and Explorer Scouts	[Cat 1a] 2 Day Expedition	[Cat 1b] 2 Day Expedition
Explorer Scouts and Scout Network	[Cat 2a] 3 Day Expedition	[Cat 2b] 3 Day Expedition
	[Cat 3a] 4 Day Expedition	[Cat 3b] 4 Day Expedition

Badges and Awards

Expedition planning is part of the requirements for Scouts, Explorer Scouts or Scout Network members to complete their challenges or top awards. The following table shows (in bold) how completing the Expedition Planning Challenge can help you to meet the requirements of different parts of the applicable challenges or top awards.

Please let your section leader (or District Scout Network Commissioner) know that you are taking part in the challenge and send them copies of your plans so that they can sign you off against these requirements.

Scouts	
	Adventure Challenge Award "2. Take an active part in planning the expedition. Do any training you need and be well prepared. Training should include: • **Planning a route, including rest and meal stops. Being able to work out how long it should take you to travel that route**. • **Choosing suitable equipment for an expedition**. You might consider tents, stoves, rucksacks, walking equipment, emergency equipment, first aid kit, wet weather gear, **appropriate food** and a camera. • Navigation and using things like maps and timetables for your expedition. You might want to brush up on using an Ordnance Survey or similar map, a compass, a GPS device, a street map or A-Z, and rail or bus timetables. • Knowing what to do in an emergency. See https://www.scouts.org.uk/scouts/awards/expedition/
Explorer Scouts	
	Chief Scout's Platinum Award (or Duke of Edinburgh's Award Bronze) **Expedition:** Complete a two day and one night expedition in rural country by foot, cycle, horse, canoe, boat or dinghy. **The expedition should involve careful preparation**, training, responsibility and review. See https://www.scouts.org.uk/top-awards/chief-scouts-platinum-award/
Explorer Scouts and Scout Network	
	Chief Scout's Diamond Award (or Duke of Edinburgh's Award Silver) **Expedition:** Complete a three day and two night expedition in rural or open country by foot, cycle, horse, canoe, boat or dinghy. **The expedition should involve careful preparation**, training, responsibility and review. See https://www.scouts.org.uk/top-awards/chief-scouts-diamond-award/
	Queen's Scout Award (or Duke of Edinburgh's Award Gold) **Expedition:** Undertake training, a practice expedition and a four-day, three-night self-led final expedition (including a project). You should undertake training (to show you are ready to do your expedition, a practice expedition and then the final expedition). **Training** Before you undertake any expedition you should demonstrate that you are competent in the following areas: • … • **Navigation and route planning** • Camp craft, **equipment** and hygiene • **Food** and cooking • …

Individual or Team Challenge?

You can complete the Expedition Planning Challenge by yourself, or ideally as a team.

To complete the expedition planning in the fastest time possible, you'll probably want to divide the task amongst your expedition team, with one of you working on menus, one of your working on the equipment list and some of you working on the route plans and tracings for the different days of your expeditions.

How Does it Work?

The process is simple:

Your individual clock starts ticking and we start timing you when you fill in the form to register to take the challenge. Your individual clock stops when you upload your expedition planning files. We'll then score your plans and post your times and score on the county website at

https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/events/expedition-planning-challenge/

Registering to Take Part

To register to take part, complete the form on the county website at

https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/events/expedition-planning-challenge/

You'll need to let us know:

- Your name or the name of your team (note that this name will appear on the county website)
- Your section (Troop/Group name, or Unit or Network name)
- Which category you're entering
    - **Category 1a**: Scouts or Explorers, 2 day expedition – using mapping software
    - **Category 2a**: Explorers or network, 3 day expedition – using mapping software
    - **Category 3a**: Explorers or network, 4 day expedition – using mapping software
    - **Category 1b** Scouts or Explorers, 2 day expedition – NOT using mapping software
    - **Category 2b**: Explorers or network, 3 day expedition – NOT using mapping software
    - **Category 3b**: Explorers or network, 4 day expedition – NOT using mapping software
- An email address to which we will send details of the challenge, or so that we can contact you if we need to (enter this VERY carefully)
- A name and email address for your leader (so that we can copy them, if we need to contact you)

Challenge Details

Once you've registered, your individual clock will start ticking and we'll start counting how long it takes for you to submit your expedition plan.

We'll send you an email of the route we want you to plan and what details we need for your route, your menu, and your equipment list (different categories will have different requirements). We'll also

send you excerpts from the necessary OS maps but please note that this map excerpts will NOT be to scale.

Included in the email will be a unique team number and a link to submit your completed plans. These are important and you'll need them to submit your entries.

You must then complete your plans as quickly as possible and send them to us via the link to the submission form we have provided.

Submitting Your Completed Plans

In the email we'll send you when you register will be:

- A unique team number
- An email address to email your plans to

When emailing your plans we'll ask you to name your files according to the following file naming convention. This will help us to manage and score all the entries:

Menu

The file containing your menu should be named using a file name as follows:

- "[Team Number] - Menu"

  Where [Team Number] is your unique team number from the email we send you e.g. if you are Team 12, the file name should be "12 – Menu"

Equipment List:

The file containing your equipment list should be named using a file name as follows:

- "[Team Number] – Equipment List"

  Where [Team Number] is your unique team number from the email we send you e.g. if you are Team 12, the file name should be "12 – Equipment List"

Route Plans / Cards

You should have more than one route plan – one for each day.

The files containing your route plans should be named using a file name as follows:

- "[Team Number] – Route Plan Day N"

  Where [Team Number] is your unique team number from the email we send you and 'N' is 1, 2 3 or 4, for each day of your expedition (depending on your category, you may have 2, 3 or 4 route plans)

  e.g. if you are Team 12, the file name for your first route plan should be "12 – Route Plan Day 1"

Route Tracings

You should have more than one route tracing – one for each day.

The files containing your route tracings should be named using a file name as follows:

- "[Team Number] – Route Tracing Day N"

Where [Team Number] is your unique team number from the email we send you and 'N' is 1, 2 3 or 4, for each day of your expedition (depending on your category, you may have 2, 3 or 4 route plans)

e.g. if you are Team 12, the file name for your second route tracing should be "12 – Route Tracing Day 2"

Emailing Files

Emailed files can be in any suitable format: Excel spreadsheets, Word documents, PDF documents or photographs taken with your phone – as long as we can read them.

Please make sure that your email clearly tells us your unique team number. We will use the time and date stamp on your email to stop your clock and work out your time

If you choose to combine files that's okay (e.g. put all you route plans /cards in a single file), but please use a sensible file name based on the above and make sure we can understand which is which. Each file must be less than 10Mb

Hints

Here are some tips and tricks to help you:

- Organise your team, whether it's just yourself, your usual expedition team or other Scouts, Explorers or Network members you choose to do the challenge with. This is as much about team building and team management as it is expedition planning.
- Practice first – you've got until the end of May to complete the challenge. Do some route planning ahead of time if you haven't already. Get used to the software you'll be using (if any) and practice any calculations you may need to make (e.g. taking bearings from the map, calculating walking time based on a normal pace, allowing for height gain etc).
- If you're completely new to this, search for 'expedition route planning' online. There are plenty of guides out there for you to learn from.
- If you've never used route planning software before take advantage of the Ordinance Survey's free 7 day trial for their OS Maps software. It's 's a great introduction and it's pretty much the same tool as used for planning Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions.
- Don't fill in the registration form until everyone is ready. If you're entering as a team, you'll want everyone in the team to be ready to do their part once you submit the registration form. Remember that as soon as you submit your registration form, your clock starts ticking.
- Use online communications (e.g. email, messaging, video chat, collaboration software) to share information and coordinate your team.
- Work accurately and work fast – A good team should be able to complete this in less than a day.
- Assign someone to collect all the various files together, make sure the files are named correctly and complete the submission form complete with uploading the files.

The Rules

The rules are simple:

- Entries close at midnight on Sunday 31st May, so you have plenty of time to prepare
- You will only get one chance to take part in each category, so make sure that you're ready

- Each day's expedition should take:
  - 5-6 hours per day for a 2 day expedition
  - 6-7 hours per day for a 3 day expedition
  - 7-8 hours per day for a 4 day expedition

  This should be calculated at a sensible walking pace and includes time height gain and for breaks

- Your route should only use public rights of way or open access land

Good Luck!