

## Oxfam and The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Oxfam is an Approved Activity Provider (AAP) for The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

This means the Oxfam Youth Ambassadors badge can count towards the DofE; and volunteering in an Oxfam shop from the age of 14 can count towards both the DofE and the Oxfam Youth Ambassadors badge.

Participants have a lot of choice about how to structure their DofE. This document provides guidelines to help plan their DofE alongside the Oxfam Youth Ambassadors badge.



### Volunteering or Skills?

Oxfam offers opportunities to complete both the volunteering and the skills sections of the DofE. However we feel volunteering is the most straightforward section to organise and record.

A participant may spend up to 25% of their volunteering time on training or learning new skills, so there are plenty of opportunities to learn as part of a volunteering role. Volunteering may take place in either a school or college based Youth Ambassadors Group and/or in an Oxfam shop.

However participants may also do their DofE skills section with Oxfam. Relevant examples of skills are filmmaking, journalism, social media and event management.

The skill should be learnt outside formal education and independently of volunteering with Oxfam. For example a participant could learn web design in the evenings and then help build a new website for their school's Youth Ambassador's Group or local Oxfam shop. Learning a new skill as part of the participant's school or college curriculum is not valid. Participants should always check first with their DofE Leader that their activities can count for their Award.



COINCIDING with the third anniversary of the start of the conflict in Syria, pupils at a Whitechapel school have been raising awareness about the children who make up half of the refugees from the conflict. As part of Oxfam's Seen and Heard campaign, students from Swanlea School's youth ambassador group prepared talks and delivered assemblies to the whole school. They also planned and taught a special lesson to their peers about the crisis, which has seen more than 2.25 million Syrians flee

to neighbouring countries and more than 100,000 lose their lives. Students wrote more than 800 postcards to Bethnal Green and Bow MP Rushanara Ali, petitioning her to support their campaign. Head teacher Brenda Landers said: "The compassion and kindness that students at Swanlea have for others is enormous. "They have not only worked incredibly hard to help children in Syria, but they have also helped others learn more about this terrible crisis and to take action themselves."

These volunteer Youth Ambassadors organised a campaign to raise awareness about the plight of Syria's child refugees *and* got this story published in their local paper.

### How do the DofE and the Oxfam Youth Ambassadors badge fit together?

By doing the DofE and the Oxfam Youth Ambassadors badge together participants can gain twice the recognition for their efforts. How the DofE and the Youth Ambassadors badge fit together for the volunteering section depends on the participant's DofE level – Bronze, Silver or Gold.

Oxfam Youth Ambassadors must complete three sections – leadership, active participation and having a voice – to be awarded the Youth Ambassadors badge. The three sections should cover separate activities and take approximately one school or college year to complete. How participants fit these requirements into their DofE is flexible. Participants who volunteer for 18 months for their DofE Gold will be eligible for their Youth Ambassadors badge after 12 months.

<b>Level</b>	<b>DofE Volunteering Section</b>	<b>Oxfam Youth Ambassadors badge equivalent</b>	<b>How do they fit?</b>
<b>DofE Bronze</b>	Age 14+ Either 3 or 6 months volunteering with Oxfam  This constitutes one or two of the three sections of the Youth Ambassadors badge.	One or two school/college based Youth Ambassador activities taking one term each  or  3 or 6 months volunteering in an Oxfam shop. This may also count as one or two Youth Ambassador activities	You must complete a total of three sections (leadership, active participation, having a voice) taking one term each to be awarded the Oxfam Youth Ambassadors badge.  These may be completed in with a school or college Youth Ambassadors group and/or in an Oxfam Shop
<b>DofE Silver</b>	Age 15+ 6 or 12 months volunteering with Oxfam.  This constitutes two or three sections of the Youth Ambassadors badge.	Two or three school/college based Youth Ambassador activities taking one term each  or  6 or 12 months volunteering in an Oxfam shop. This may also count as two Youth Ambassador activities	You must complete a total of three activities (leadership, active participation, having a voice) taking one term each to be awarded the Oxfam Youth Ambassadors badge.  These may be completed in with a school or college Youth Ambassadors group and/or in an Oxfam Shop

<b>DofE Gold</b>	Age 16+ 12 or 18 months volunteering with Oxfam  12 months volunteering constitutes all three sections of the Youth Ambassadors badge.	Three Youth Ambassador school/college activities taking one term each  or  12 or 18 months volunteering in an Oxfam shop. Three activities taking 12 months may also count as the full Youth Ambassadors badge	The volunteering section of the DofE Gold Award is equivalent to at least the Oxfam Youth Ambassadors badge.  The Youth Ambassadors badge is usually completed in 12 months.  All three sections - leadership, active participation and having a voice – should be completed in a school or college Youth Ambassadors group and/or in an Oxfam Shop.
------------------	---	--	--

**More information**

[Oxfam Youth Ambassadors groups](#)

Oxfam Youth Ambassador groups are based in schools or colleges in England for young people aged between 11 and 18. Groups should be mentored by a teacher or other adult.

Volunteering in an Oxfam shop

Volunteers must be at least 14 years old and should apply at their local Oxfam shop. [Visit the shopfinder](#) to locate the nearest shop.