



Top Awards FAQs

During Covid-19 Outbreak



How can I my award be assessed if I can't see my assessor?

If you're able to continue your usual activities at home, you should continue to use your appointed Assessor. As you're unlikely to be doing your activity in the usual way, make sure you get in touch to let them know how you're continuing. You should also contact them about how you would like to stay in touch, and how they can assess your activity remotely. For example:

- Using activity logs to record what you're doing and send it to your Assessor.
- Taking photos or recording a video of your activity that you can send to your Assessor as evidence.
- Use phone and email to stay in touch to let them know how you're getting on.

I need to change my activity or start a new section, but I don't know who my assessor can be.

An Assessor can be anyone who is interested in helping you to complete your section and achieve your Award, has some knowledge about it (although they don't need to be an expert!) and is available over the time you're doing your activity.

Remember, you must check any changes with your leader.

They cannot be a family member (to maintain the integrity and value of your Award), but they could be:

- A family friend
- Your explorer or D of E Leader
- Another explorer volunteer or helper who helps with your group (your leader can put you in touch)
- A teacher from your school
- Another youth leader, if you belong to a youth club, St John Ambulance Cadets, Police Cadets etc.

If you're struggling to find an assessor, please speak to your leader or contact the Staffordshire County Top Awards Team.

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If I change my activity, do the hours spent on my previous activity still count for my Award?

Yes, if you decide to change activity make sure you get approval from your Leader then you just need to complete the new activity for the remaining time e.g. if your Volunteering section is 6 months, and you had already been volunteering for 4 months, you will just need to do the new activity for 2 months.

Remember you will need to get the assessor from your previous activity to write a report to confirm what you did and how long you did it for as well as your new assessor.

I've found a new volunteering activity I can complete, but it will be difficult to do one hour per week. Can I do a few hours per month, rather than a day per week?

Although we encourage all participants to do their activities weekly, it may be that if your activity has been cancelled or changed due to the coronavirus outbreak. You must confirm this with your leader first, but it may be more beneficial to do an activity for one day (4-6 hours) per month. Although this is more common for Silver and Gold levels, it is also accepted at Bronze.

If you choose to do this, the total hours you spend doing the activity must be at least the same (you may choose to do more hours of course!). Also, remember that the activity must still be spread across the number of months you've chosen to spend on that section.

For example, if you are doing your Volunteering section for six months at Silver level starting in April 2020, you must do a minimum of a day each month (at least four to six hours) until your earliest completion date – which in this case would be October 2020.

Remember, you must check this with your leader first.

My residential has been cancelled, can I still achieve my Award?

The organisation you have booked your residential with will be able to advise you on whether it can be postponed, and any refund arrangements. Although it's really disappointing to have your residential cancelled, you have until your 25th birthday to complete your awards. Therefore, you will hopefully have plenty of time to rearrange your trip or find another one in the future.

If you're nearly 25, make sure you speak to your Leader about an age extension in these circumstances. They will need to contact the Staffordshire County Top Awards Team to arrange this.

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What do I do if my expedition has been cancelled?

Speak to your Leader or the Leader coordinating your expedition as details will depend on your circumstances and expedition arrangements, your group may postpone your expedition until later in the year. Remember that you have until you are 25 to complete your awards.

If you have any further questions not answered here, please feel free to contact the Staffordshire County Top Awards Team.

Email: Top.Awards@Staffordshirescouts.org.uk

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