

Maze Presbyterian Church

Important Information for Parents

Membership Fees

Membership fees for the 2019 / 2020 season are as follows:

Bronze Award £100 + £20 deposit

Silver Award £120 + £20 deposit

Gold Award £120 + £20 deposit + additional Qualifying expedition fees*

The above fees include expenses for day walks (transport, fuel) and maintenance of equipment. At Bronze and Silver these fees also include the practice expedition and qualifying expedition.

*Additional Gold expedition fees are dependent on the location of the expedition. Factors which will affect expedition cost will include duration of expedition, mode of transport, travel distance, campsite fees etc. The 2017/ 18 Maze Gold expedition took place in the Wicklow Hills in the Republic of Ireland and the total cost was approx £185

Important: Any participant that has not paid their membership fees by the 31st October 2019 will not be allowed to continue with the Award at Maze for the 2019 / 2020 season. They are welcome to apply the following year.

Day Walks

For day walks you will be expected drop your child off at Maze Presbyterian Church on the morning of the day walk and be there to collect them on their return to the church. Any times given for return to the Church are approximate. In the event we are running late you will be notified of the revised time by your child or by one of the leaders if they do not have access to a mobile phone.

Equipment provided for expeditions

Maze Open Award will supply the following equipment to participants during expeditions:

- Tents
- Cooking Equipment
- Compasses
- Maps

Loan and Return of Maze Open Award Equipment for Expeditions

Maze Open Award entrusts participants to take responsibility for all equipment loaned to them during an expedition. To encourage teamwork and collective responsibility all loaned equipment will be signed out on a group basis (excluding dry bags). Once equipment is signed out to a group they are responsible for ensuring its safe return. In the event that equipment is damaged due to negligence or misuse the cost of any repairs or replacement will be split between the group.

All participants must return to the church for a debriefing after expeditions. They will be asked to remain at the church until they have cleaned their cooking equipment and safely returned and signed back in any other equipment that they borrowed at the start of the expedition.

Use of Mobile Phones on Expeditions

Participants must not use their phones during expeditions. They are only to be used in an emergency unless directed otherwise by a leader. If we find that the participant is openly using their phone in situations other than that described above they will fail their expedition.

Emergency Situations in the Mountains

If there is an emergency or Mountain Rescue situation parents will be notified immediately by one of the leaders. If parents are at all worried about their children during an expedition they can contact Barbara Carlisle on Mob: 0774 3853 816 or email: blcarlisle@yahoo.co.uk for an update or they can contact the expedition leader.

In the event of an emergency the participants will contact one of the leaders. They will have been asked not to contact their parents. The reason for this is that the leaders are 'on the ground' and are therefore best placed to assess the situation and decide what constitutes an emergency situation.

Progression to next Award Level

For Bronze to progress to Silver all sections of their Bronze Award must be completed on 'edofe'

For Silver to progress to Gold at least 2 sections of their Silver Award must be completed on 'edofe'

Communication and Contact Information

We require house and mobile contact numbers and e-mail addresses for the Next of Kin should we need to contact them. We also require the mobile numbers of each participant should we need to contact them in the hills in an emergency situation. Communication (e-mail or phone) will be with parents unless the participant is over 18 years of age. Please notify us if you change your mobile number or e-mail address.

Use of Mobile Phones on Training Nights

Mobile phones should be switched off at all times on Duke of Edinburgh nights. It is very important that we have your child's attention during training so they can learn the essential skills for confident and safe travel in the mountains. If your child insists on talking on the phone, texting or listening to music then we will confiscate the phone until the end of the evening when it will be returned. Failure to comply will result in parents being informed.

Behaviour and Discipline

Your child's participation in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme should teach them essential life skills in a safe and secure environment. It is our job as leaders to create a suitable environment which facilitates this. Whilst we are more than happy for participants to have fun and laughter during the Award we will not tolerate, under any circumstances, the following behaviour:

- Constant disruption by a participant during training classes
- Failure to take an active part in anything and holding others back
- Answering back to leaders, being abusive and having a general disregard for leaders and the group
- Bullying
- Any racist, sexist or sexual remarks or behaviour
- Behaviour of any type which causes risk to self or the group in a mountain environment.

If your child becomes involved in any of the above activities you will be fully informed of the reasons as to why your child has been removed from the Maze Duke of Edinburgh Open Award.

Drugs, Alcohol and Smoking

If any participant is found taking or in the possession of drugs or alcohol at any time whilst under the supervision of leaders from Maze Duke of Edinburgh Award, the parents will be informed and they will be instantly removed from the Maze DOE Award Scheme. We also do not permit smoking when under our supervision, regardless of whether the child is over 16 or not.