



Duke of Edinburgh's Award Paddlesport Expedition Section



About Channel Adventure

Channel Adventure is a specialist provider of Outdoor Education, Recreation and Leisure based in Somerset - and working across the South West, delivering Duke of Edinburgh programmes to a variety of schools, colleges and youth organisations.

Everything that Channel Adventure does is about developing people, helping them to learn, developing new and existing skills and growing their contribution to the world around them. That is why we're such big fans of the DofE programme and love delivering it!

Water-Based Paddlesport Expeditions

We're really excited to share with you are exciting new range of paddlesport expeditions based out of COACH, our excellent, well-equipped waterside facility in Taunton. We love all types of expeditions but we especially enjoy paddlesport expeditions – they allow the participants to enjoy a unique perspective on our countryside while developing a range of skills and qualities that just seem to flourish when you get into a boat or onto a board.

Our expeditions are totally accessible and don't require the need to carry heavy bags or wear blister inducing boots. For these reasons, we find participants are far more able to focus on their projects and really enjoy the expedition without the need to be uncomfortable. Don't get us wrong though, paddlesport is by no means a soft option, it is still a challenge and like walking expeditions can be as physical as the group wants to make it.

Channel Adventure is owned and run by qualified teachers so we really understand the challenges facing our colleagues in schools and youth groups with regards to getting expeditions organised and participants out of school. With this in mind we've aimed to make the whole process as straight forward and simple as possible – with you hopefully, being to really enjoy the weekend. You can supervise the groups on foot, by bike or jump on one of Stand-Up Paddleboards or canoes/ kayaks and head off down the river after your groups.

How does it work?

Expedition Training (Two days) – This could be done over a weekend or two weekends or as a series of afterschool sessions, whatever suits the participants and the school best. Being based centrally in Taunton with it's easy public transport links or in some cases a short walk to the centre, we can usually fit your requirements without the need for costly coach hire.

Over the two days we'll cover the following:

- Water safety management principles and practices.
- Basic first Aid
- Outdoor cooking
- Tent or bivouac erecting – it's great fun incorporating your boat or board into a bivi instead of a tent.
- Fundamental paddlesport skills
- Fundamental rescue skills
- Navigation and map reading
- Team work and problem-solving skill development
- Kit, equipment and how to keep it dry.

Qualifying Expedition (Two days, one night)

Having tried all the different available craft on the training weekend which included; Stand Up Paddleboards, Kayaks, Canoes and Inflatable Rafts. The participants will take to the water in their chosen craft having planned their route – there are a couple of options in terms of distances paddled but will essentially be based from the centre at COACH making use of the river Tone and Taunton and Bridgwater Canal system. This safe and accessible waterway is full of wildlife and is beautiful as you get out into the countryside which happens surprisingly quickly.

The participants will camp for the night at a recognised campsite before returning back to COACH the next day or possibly continuing on to Bridgwater.

Included in the price

- All technical equipment including boats/boards, tent, stove, all safety equipment and maps.
- High quality instruction from the Channel Adventure team
- Access to our comfortable, well-equipped centre with hot showers and changing facilities.
- All necessary launch/landing fees
- All camping fees
- All insurances and licence fees

Not Included in the price

- Transport to and from the venue
- Food and drink

Cost per participant – From £275

Note. For paddlesport expeditions where participants may be paddling tandem boats group sizes can go up to 8.

No two expeditions are exactly the same so do please get in touch to discuss your requirements, we'd love to hear from you.

