

## ***Not in the Handbook*** ***The Duke of Edinburgh's Award***



In May, 2010, BSA joined with the **Duke of Edinburgh's Award** (DOE) ([www.dofeusa.org](http://www.dofeusa.org)) program to inspire youth. The award program aims to involve youth in challenging educational and nonacademic programs in community service, adventurous journeys, and physical recreation activities to achieve a balanced development of life skills.

The award, introduced to the United Kingdom in 1956 by Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, has since traveled to more than 130 countries around the world, inspiring youth (ages 14 to 25) to achieve personal discovery and growth through self-reliance, perseverance, responsibility, and service to the community. Every year, there are approximately 700,000 youth worldwide who undertake these programs of development in order to achieve either a bronze, silver, or gold level of achievement. Since 1956, more than six million awards have been presented and many of those have been scouts!

Although the award will be available to all Scouts, BSA will specifically promote it to members of its Venturing program.

### **Venturing**

One of the great things about the DOE is that it ties in well with the new Venturing Rank requirements. Each program has four areas in which to grow. Three of the areas overlap well and they are:

Venturing Ranks	Duke of Edinburgh's Award
1. Adventure	1. Adventurous Journey
2. Personal Growth	2. Special Skills
3. Service	3. Community Service

The one area for each program that does not match well (but with some imagination, I expect one could match them) is:

Venturing Ranks	Duke of Edinburgh's Award
4. Leadership	4. Physical Recreation

The Venturing Rank requirements can best be accessed from: [usscouts.org/venturing/PDFs/Venturing-Program-Update-220-855.pdf](http://usscouts.org/venturing/PDFs/Venturing-Program-Update-220-855.pdf). There is a file on the scouting.org website of the same thing but it is not formatted as nicely for printing.

The DOE requirements can be accessed from: [www.dofeusa.org/do-the-award/award-requirements/](http://www.dofeusa.org/do-the-award/award-requirements/).

## **Congressional Award**

Between 1999 and 2010, BSA had a relationship with the Congressional Award. (I did a write up on the relationship and it is available at [www.sageventure.com/venturing/tips/CongressionalAward.pdf](http://www.sageventure.com/venturing/tips/CongressionalAward.pdf).) Even though the relationship with BSA has not continued, the requirements for the DOE and those for the Congressional Award are very similar so if a Venturer were working on one award, it would be wise to track the work under both programs. It would be a two for one!

The requirements for the Congressional Award can be accessed from [www.congressionalaward.org/youth/requirements.php](http://www.congressionalaward.org/youth/requirements.php).

## **Upper age for Awards**

One of the good aspects of both the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and the Congressional Award is that the age requirement goes beyond 21. The Duke of Edinburgh's award must be completed before turning 25. The Congressional Award must be completed before turning 24. So if a Venturer did not finish before 21, the now Venturing adult can continue to work towards the top award in each program for several additional years.