

Parental / Guardian Role During Expeditions

BXM Expeditions encourage parents / guardians to be supportive of their young people during expeditions.

For many young people DofE is their first time in the 'great outdoors'. While Bronze and Silver expeditions take place in 'local countryside' this can still be a daunting task for participants. Gold expeditions take place in 'Wild country' this means they'll be walking through and sometimes over mountains. It is important to help your young people prepare for the expedition but not do everything for them. It is their award and they should take ownership of it.

What is required of parents / guardians during an expedition?

Parents / Guardians must be contactable for the duration of the expedition just in case BXM Expeditions / the participating school need to get in touch with you. We may get in touch with you for the following reasons:

- Your child needs to be collected before the end of the expedition because of;
 - Poor Behaviour
 - Injury / Illness
 - Participant no longer wishes to continue
 - The Expedition finish time is earlier than expected
 - Change of finish location due to unforeseen circumstances

We know it is tempting to book a weekend away or 'have a night off' to let your hair down while your young people are away but it is important you're always contactable and have the ability to get to the expedition area if needed.

What happens if I receive a call from a BXM Instructor?

If you receive a call to collect your child from an expedition, this is not a decision that has been taken lightly, please respect the BXM Instructors decision and comply with their instructions. They have to consider all participants safety and this is paramount. If they are claiming your child has displayed poor behaviour and you dispute this decision you can write to:

Leigh Rose
BXM Expeditions Manager
Unit 4 Axis Business Centre
Westmead Industrial Estate
Swindon
SN5 7YS

BXM Outdoors

Telephone: 0800 433 2963 | Email: info@bxmoutdoors.com
Address: Unit 4 Axis Business Centre, Westmead Industrial Estate, Swindon, Wiltshire SN5 7YS
Company number: 09584842

It may also be that your young person wishes to come home because they are homesick, feeling unwell or just simply don't enjoy the expedition experience as they thought they would. Please respect their decision. BXM Expeditions are unable to allow participants to complete the expeditions against their will and will not force a participant to carry on at the request of parents / guardians.

If you receive a phone call from an instructor or a member of the BXM Office team and they ask you to collect your young person and you are unable to do so you must arrange for a family member or family friend to collect your young person. If this is not possible BXM Expeditions will arrange for them to travel via public transport home and you will receive an invoice for these costs.

Help to ensure Participants understand the DofE 20 conditions & Behaviour Policy

The 20 conditions are a set of criteria that DofE participants must meet in order to pass the expedition section of the award. BXM instructors and assessors will try and facilitate participants success as best as possible but it is ultimately down to the groups to work hard and within these conditions in order for them to pass, after all, it is their award. You can find the DofE 20 Conditions here: <https://www.dofe.org/20conditions/>

BXM Expeditions has a behaviour policy which sets out a code of conduct all participants must following throughout the expedition. BXM, like with the DofE 20 conditions, will run through this with the participants but it would be appreciated if this can be re-iterated by parents.

Ensure Participants have the correct equipment

BXM Expeditions understands that many of the items on the kit list might be new to parents / guardians and certainly to participants. BXM have worked with schools and youth groups for over 10 years and have adapted our kit lists to ensure participants are kitted out safely but do not have excess equipment. Unless stated all items on the kit list are mandatory and are there to keep participants safe. The main things are that participants have a warm enough sleeping bag, waterproof walking boots and an appropriate waterproof jacket and trousers.

You can view a full kit list on our website as well as purchase quality affordable products from the BXM Store.

<https://www.bxmoutdoors.com/advice/> - Kit list and advice.

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<https://www.bxmoutdoors.com/> - BXM Shop

Will I be able to speak to my child during the expedition?

In a world of instant communications and smart phones its very easy to contact loved ones with a touch of a screen. During our expeditions participants must follow a mobile phone policy which means they can only use their phones for emergency uses only. This means that you may not hear from your child or the BXM team throughout the expedition. This is ok and often a good sign. Expeditions are a great way for young people to get out of their comfort zone and reconnect with the outdoors while not always being connected to the internet, snapchat, Instagram and people at home. If you're worried about your child please contact the BXM office on 0800 433 2963 and we will enable to you speak with your child if needed.

If you wish to raise a complaint or have a dispute regarding this policy or the way you / your child has been treated during an expedition you should write to the below member of staff. Your complaint will then be handled and response given within 14 days.

Leigh Rose
BXM Expeditions Manager
Unit 4 Axis Business Centre
Westmead Industrial Estate
Swindon
SN5 7YS

Written By:

Leigh Rose

BXM Outdoors Business Manager 03 November 2022 – To be revised November 2023.

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