



## RE – Lowland Leaders Award Wales - 2011/12

I am writing to inform you that Neath Port Talbot Youth Service will be running a Lowland Leaders Award Wales (LLAW). This letter includes information about the LLAW qualification, information about cost, venue, equipment needed and the dates for the course.

In previous years the adult expedition training course we have delivered has been the Basic Expedition Leaders Award (BELA). However we have always found the BELA a little restrictive in terms of the areas you can operate in once you have the qualification. We have therefore switched to a south wales specific qualification called the Lowland Leaders Award Wales (LLAW). This qualification gives you a more clear and wider operating area (D of E bronze and silver expeditions) although it is not yet nationally recognised like the BELA. Therefore if you are looking for a qualification that can be used with organisations outside of the Swansea/Neath Port Talbot area then please get in touch with myself to discuss.

### *The Lowland Leaders Award Wales*

The Lowland Leaders Award Wales is a course that trains and qualifies teachers, youth workers and other members of the community to:

- Lead groups in lowland areas
- Have responsibility for the care of others when outdoors including day journeys
- Organise base and mobile camps
- Supervise multi-day ventures

At the end of the course you will undertake an informal assessment with a technical advisor, providing they are happy (we are yet to have someone deferred!) you are then qualified to lead groups of young people in lowland areas with organisations from Neath Port Talbot.

### *Course content*

The Lowland Leaders Award Wales consist of ten main units:

Unit 01 - Understanding the principles and practice of learning in an outdoor environment

Unit 02 - Understanding the duty, obligations and demands of expedition leadership

Unit 03 - Theory and practice of planning, preparing and completing a independent multi-day journey - understanding DofE principles and requirements

- Unit 04 - Supervising and supporting an independent journey – including Remote supervision.
- Unit 05 - Group training principles and problems preparing for final venture
- Unit 06 - Selecting and recommending appropriate equipment for an outdoor activity
- Unit 07 - Remote First aid and emergency situations whilst outdoors
- Unit 08 Applying basic navigation skills during an expedition including relocation strategies.
- Unit 09 - Practical Planning session for DofE Bronze or Silver length independent journeys
- Unit 10 - Demonstration of expedition leadership skills - Assessment

### The Provider and Venue

The course will be provided by Robert Clapham Training. Robert has spent over 30 years in the mountains and hills. He spent 10 years working as a search manager for the Western Brecon Beacons mountain team and is a qualified mountain leader. Rob also runs a company that delivers specialist first courses for those working in the outdoors at all levels.

The course will be based at Llangatwg Comprehensive School in Cadoxton (map enclosed), although for a large majority of the time we will be in the outdoors.

### Course cost, Equipment and other Purchases

- Enclosed, or on the website, is a kit list for day walks, you will need to bring this equipment to each LLAW session. For the expedition weekend we can lend out equipment such as tents, stoves and large rucksacks.
- You will also need to purchase a map of the central and western Beacons (ordnance survey explorer series OL12), I can provide this for £10, and a compass, again I can provide these for £15 (half retail price).
- There will be an assessment cost of approximately £50 per head to cover the expenses of the technical advisor.
- When staying overnight in the Beacons we will be using a bunkhouse which will cost approx £15 per head (one night). When camping on the Gower there will be a cost of approx £5 per head (two nights) per night for camping.

### Expectations of Candidates

The LLAW course is designed to provide practical outdoor skills for candidates to lead and supervise groups in lowland environments. There is an expectation that candidates will practically apply their learning during the course duration providing evidence which will be recorded in the logbooks. Candidates are expected to record their progress log all walks, expeditions, and training personally undertaken while on the course – practically using and developing learned skills. This evidence will be reviewed during and at the end of their course.

Candidates are expected to attend all the training sessions. However we do provide an extra weekend at the end of the course before the assessment for those that have missed one or two days of the course. The cost of this extra weekend must be covered by the participants that have missed sessions. ***If a candidate misses more than two days they will be unable to complete the course and the full cost of the course will be passed on to them, unless there are exceptional circumstances.***

Once you have passed the course technical assessment then you must complete 30 hours voluntary work as an expedition leader with Neath Port Talbot Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

**If you have little or no experience of walking or navigation then that's ok, you will be taught the basics on the course, however you will need to make time outside of the course to get outdoors and practice/develop these skills.**

*To enroll:*

If you wish to enroll on the course then please contact myself via email or phone (details below).

*Finally:*

Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time if you have any questions regarding any aspects of the course. The course always has a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere, there is no formal assessment. All candidates will gain skills and knowledge that will allow them to take young people and adults into the outdoors on expeditions or day walks, the value of these activities to young people and adults cannot be underestimated. Many participants develop a passion and enjoyment for hill and mountain walking which becomes a core interest in their lives.

For information regarding kit lists please refer to the 'exped info' page on the website, [www.nptdofe.co.uk](http://www.nptdofe.co.uk), you will need the 'day walk kit list' for first four weekends and the 'exped kit list' for the final weekend of the course.

I hope to see you soon,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neath H', with a long horizontal line underneath it.

**Neil Hapgood –  
Duke of Edinburgh's Award  
Development Officer**

**Tel : 07818443884 / 01639 635210**

**Fax : 01639867923**

**Email : [neilhapgood@gmail.com](mailto:neilhapgood@gmail.com)**

**Post : Llangatwg Comprehensive School, Cadoxton, Neath, SA10 8DB**