



The **Awards** section contains information about the Challenge Plus Award Scheme and how it operates.

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Introduction to the Challenge Plus Awards

The Award Scheme provides young people with recognition for taking part in the Challenge Plus programme.

Challenge Plus Awards

How are badges gained?

It is possible to gain one badge each year at one of three levels. Each badge is gained by accumulating points for completing Projects and Challenges from the Challenge Plus Programme. Points cannot be carried forward, and only points gained in one year can be counted towards that year's award.

Points are awarded as follows:

A completed **Project** which should last a minimum of 5 hours = **5 points**

A completed **Challenge** which will vary in time = **1 point**

The three levels of awards are:

Bronze	10 – 19 points
Silver	20 – 29 points
Gold	30 points or more

Is it necessary to complete Projects from each zone?

Each year at least one Project must be completed to gain an award, but there is no requirement to complete Projects from specific programme zones. However, a balanced programme of activities should be encouraged.

Key Tip!

The BB recognises the increasing pressures on young people at this age and the Challenge Plus programme has been designed with flexibility in mind to allow a young person to participate and contribute as much as they feel able. Therefore it is possible to gain silver in year one, gold in year two and bronze in year three. Equally it is possible to gain gold every year.

Major Awards

As well as Bronze, Silver and Gold badges there are also a number of other awards. Some of these require points to be accumulated from the Challenge Plus Programme. The higher awards require additional elements, which will add to the programme offered.

President's Badge

Awarded from year 4 in the Discover Programme, this Badge can still be gained through the Challenge Plus Programme.

To gain the President's Badge a young person has to:

- Complete a Christian faith development course.
- Have good attendance for one session.
- Be recommended by the Company Captain.
- Participate in a non-residential teamwork skills experience run by Battalion, District or Region.

and Either Route A

- Complete at least 30 points from the Discover programme, having gained three badges in the last 12 months **OR** complete at least 30 points from the Challenge Plus Programme having gained a Gold award in the last 12 months.
- Take part in an activity based residential event within the BB.
- Complete 10 hours of practical service for the Brigade or church.

Or Route B

Gain the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Key Tip!

Remember, all of the badges are about recognising individual's contribution, effort and achievement. All individuals have differing abilities and talents and the Discover & Challenge Plus programmes do not give set standards to be attained. Young people should be involved in deciding what they do and the targets they want to achieve.

How to apply for the President's Badge

The President's Badge is awarded directly from Regional Headquarters or in some areas by your District. The President's Badge application form must be completed and sent with payment to the District Co-ordinator (England & Wales) or the Regional Office (Scotland, Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland).

The application form can be downloaded from the BBUK Website or is available from your Regional Headquarters. When applying for the President's Badge, it is also the time to register a young person for the Queen's Badge.

Queen's Badge

Awarded from year 6, The **Queen's Badge** is the highest award that a young person can gain as a member of The Boys' Brigade. It aims to challenge young people, provide new opportunities and expand their horizons. Queen's Badge activities will normally be spread over two or more sessions, and this will be reflected in the Candidate's agreed *Programme of Activity*.

To gain The Queen's Badge a young person has to:

1. **Hold the President's Badge**
2. **Attend a Queen's Badge Candidate's Meeting**

This should be undertaken as soon as possible after registration for the Queen's Badge. At it the candidate will agree an individual *Programme of Activity*.

3. Participate in Skills-Based Training

This should be undertaken as soon as possible after registration, and not less than 6 months prior to completion. Training should include at least **one** of the following, and may be provided by the Brigade or other suitable external agencies:

(a) **Practical Skills Training:**

- i. Relevant skills-based training to support work in the Company or Church; or
- ii. Relevant skills-based training to support voluntary work for others; or
- iii. Relevant life-skills training to support personal development.

(b) **Leadership Skills Training**

Relevant training to enhance leadership skills.

Key Tip!

The purpose of the training is to prepare and equip young people with the necessary skills to undertake the service sections of the Queen's Badge. There will be generic leadership courses run by the Brigade looking at presentation skills and working with younger members etc. It may be more suitable for the young person to attend a course run by an outside agency if this is appropriate to their chosen service activity, e.g. a sports leaders' qualification or an award from an NGO of a sport. The Queen's Badge advisor will be able to support the candidate on choosing what is best for them.

4. Take Responsibility within the Brigade or Church

The candidate is expected to assume an appropriate degree of responsibility for an aspect of BB or Church activity. A minimum of **30 hours activity** is required across the planned period of involvement, and could include two or more different experiences in two or more Brigade Sessions. Activities can be at any level within the Brigade or Church, and may benefit from undertaking part of this activity outside the Company or Church.

The candidate is encouraged to explore options suitable to their own situation and are invited to submit proposals as part of their planned *Programme of Activity*. These may include (but are not restricted to) the following:

(a) **Responsibility for others within the Brigade or Church:**

- i. Work with younger members of the Company or Church in a regular programme of activity for a minimum of 6 weeks.
- ii. Work with peers within the Brigade or Church in a regular programme of activity for a minimum of 6 weeks.

(b) **Projects and activities within the Brigade or Church:**

- i. Take responsibility for the planning or delivery of all or part of an event in the Brigade or Church.
- ii. Take a responsible role for regular activities within the Brigade or Church for a minimum of 6 weeks.
- iii. Take a responsible role for a special project or new initiative within the Brigade or Church.

Key Tip!

It's important that young people are able to choose from a range of responsibilities that will challenge and inspire them. It may be appropriate for some young people to work with younger members in other sections of the Company, but not everyone will find this rewarding. It might be possible to help in another Company where practical help would be really appreciated or to volunteer at a National Brigade event or Festival. Another alternative could be to work in Sunday School or junior Church.

Don't restrict young people by only giving them opportunities to lead in certain areas, e.g. *games* or *tuck shop*. Ask them for their ideas and encourage them to do more than even they think they are capable of. Whatever form of service is chosen by the young person, they should be given real responsibility and to be encouraged to reflect on their contribution.

5. Provide Voluntary Service or Support to Others outside the Brigade and Church

The candidate is expected to undertake practical voluntary service or support to others in the Community. A minimum of **30 hours activity** is required across the planned period of involvement, and could include two or more different experiences in two or more Brigade Sessions.

Voluntary service or support may be provided in one or more of the following areas:

(a) Voluntary service to individuals or groups outside the Company:

Undergo appropriate briefing, then provide regular practical voluntary service to individuals or groups of people in the community for an agreed period of time.

(b) Voluntary service to other agencies working with individuals or groups in the Community:

Undergo appropriate briefing, then provide regular practical voluntary service to another agency or charitable cause with direct benefit to other people for an agreed period of time. The other agency may be the church working with groups or people in the community.

(c) Voluntary work in the wider community:

Undergo appropriate briefing, then provide regular practical voluntary work as part of a group working for the benefit of the community at large for an agreed period of time.

6. Develop Interests

The candidate must undertake **at least two** activities from the following three sections:

(a) Skills: Learn a new skill, or develop an existing one.

Key Tip!

The list of skills is endless. It could be a hobby such as an art or craft, playing a musical instrument, learning to drive etc. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Manual has hundreds of topics to investigate.

(b) Physical: Take part in a new activity, or improve on existing one.

NB Where both of the above activities are chosen, participation should be for a minimum of 6 months in one of the above, and 3 months in the other. Where only one is chosen, participation should be for a minimum of 6 months.

(c) Expedition / Exploration:

Encourage a spirit of adventure and discovery by preparing for and carrying out an adventurous journey as part of a team. Undergo appropriate training, including at least one supervised practice venture, then undertake a 3-day, 2-night venture with at least 7 hours planned daytime activity (e.g. journeying or exploration) per day.

Key Tip!

The activities and attainment standards for the above are comparable with The Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award. If all three are undertaken, this will enable the candidate to qualify for the relevant parts of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

7. Participate in a Completion Residential

The candidate must participate fully in a Completion Residential:

- (a) No earlier than the session equivalent to Year 12 (England & Wales); S5 (Scotland and Republic of Ireland); or Year 13 (Northern Ireland)
- (b) Not less than 12 months from the date of registration, and
- (c) Not less than 6 months from the completion of the skills-based training.

The Completion Residential is not a training course. It will provide opportunities for personal and shared reflection and evaluation; to share experiences, celebrate achievements, challenge opinions, and explore new opportunities within the Brigade, Church and wider community.

8. Record Activity

The candidate should maintain a log of activity and Record of Achievement. This Record Book will be their record of all activities and work completed. The assessor in each area will be directly responsible for supervising progress and reporting on the candidate's contribution and achievement. The record book encourages young people to record activity in a variety of different ways e.g. *video, presentation, blog, etc.*

How to get started on the Queen's Badge

The first thing before a young person can start to work towards their Queen's Badge is that they need to be registered (this is usually completed when applying for the President's Badge) and have a Queen's Badge Record Book. The Record Book is very important in guiding a young person through what they have to do and recording the activities they undertake.

How to apply for the Queen's Badge

To apply for the Queen's Badge an application form is enclosed with the Queen's Badge Record Book. This form is also available to download from the BBUK Website.

The Queen's Badge is awarded directly from Regional Headquarters or in some areas by your District. The Queen's Badge application form must be completed and sent with payment to the District Coordinator (England & Wales) or the Regional Headquarters (Scotland & Northern Ireland).

Founder's Badge

The Founder's Badge is only available in the Republic of Ireland. The regulations are the same as the Queen's Badge.

Young Volunteer Award

The Young Volunteer Award provides opportunities for young people to be rewarded for the voluntary work that they carry out. Time spent volunteering in or outside of The Boys' Brigade can be counted towards this award, whether it be in the local community, church, company or at a national or international level.

The only requirements are that a record of the hours spent volunteering are kept and signed off by the person supervising and that appropriate risk assessments and health & safety briefings are carried out before commencing any volunteering.

There are different levels of recognition varying from 50 to 200 hours, and young people would receive the following:

- 50 Hours – Certificate
- 100 Hours – Certificate
- 200 Hours – Certificate & Badge

The 200 Hours badge is a uniform item and can be worn by young people on the left armband to the right of the President's Badge (if applicable).

KEY TIP!

The I-File Handbook for members contains space to log a young person's volunteering and space for them to plan and review their volunteering experience. A separate log sheet is contained in the Information section of this pack and can be photocopied for use with the Young Volunteer Award.

Go MAD Award

The Go MAD (Make a Difference) Award recognises, encourages and rewards young people who make a significant difference to the lives of others. It is an annual award and details are sent out annually through the BB Gazette where nominations for the award will be invited.

Awards FAQ's

What about late joiners?

The scheme is not progressive in difficulty, so ideally, a new member would join in with their peer group on the Projects / Challenges currently being completed. This may mean though that they are not able to attain the same number of points in a year as their peers, or may only be able to attain 1 or 2 years of badges.

Remember, a young person joining late may still gain the President's Badge by gaining 30 points from the Challenge Plus Programme having gained a Gold Award in the last 12 months. This means that a Senior new to the group can take part in activities with their peers, and with the necessary hard work still gain the President's Badge. In time they can then work towards their Queen's Badge.

How are the badges worn?

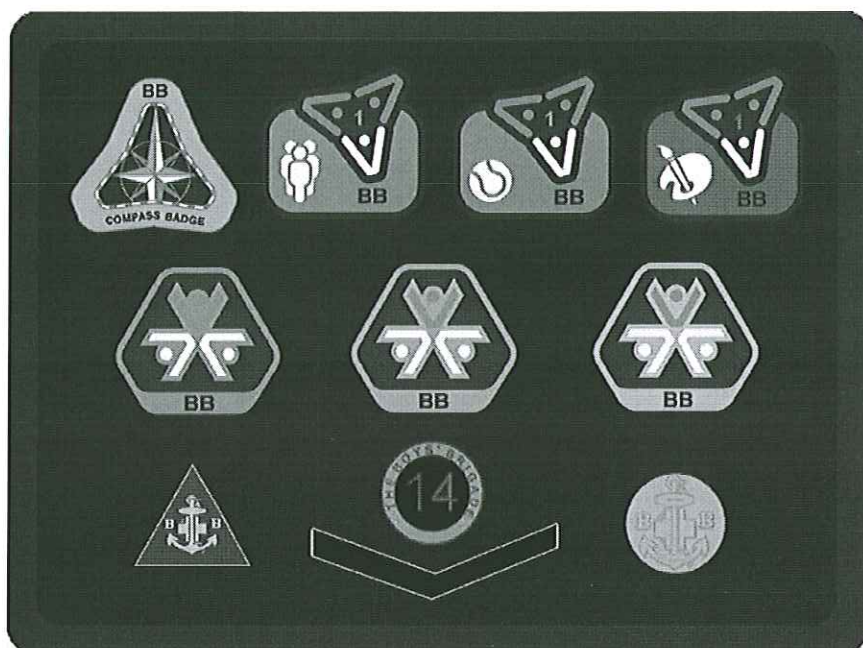
The armband layout is shown below; this also shows the badges which a young person may have gained if they had worked through the Discover Programme.

With Challenge Plus, a young person only gains 1 badge a year at either Bronze, Silver or Gold depending upon the number of points completed. They are to be worn on the right armband, under the Discover badges and from left to right: Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3.

The right armband also has the service badge, chevrons and highest badges awarded in Anchors Boys and Junior Section (where applicable).

The left armband is for the major awards including the Discovery Badge, President's Badge, Queen's Badge, 200 Hour Young Volunteer Award and Duke of Edinburgh's Awards (as applicable).

Right Armband



Left Armband



When are the badges presented?

This is entirely up to you and your young people, but it's important to recognise that whilst most young people like to be recognised for what they achieve, others might like a quieter word of appreciation.

What about record keeping?

There are two record cards; the 'Company Section/Seniors Record Card' contains personal details and records progress in the Discover Programme as well as major awards. There is also an additional 'Seniors Record Card' which records progress in the Challenge Plus Programme and Young Volunteer Award. Both of these are available from BB Supplies. Alternatively you could create your own record card or electronic method of record keeping.

What about certificates?

Certificates are available from BB Supplies and can be used to recognise the completion of a project or challenge as deemed appropriate.

How does the Duke of Edinburgh's Award link with the Challenge Plus Programme?

All members of the BB can take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme provided that the minimum age requirements have been met.

There are 3 awards which young people can achieve: Bronze, Silver and Gold. It is recommended that young people start with the Bronze Award and work their way up, but it is possible for young people to start directly at Silver or Gold. The minimum age for Bronze is 14 years, Silver 15 years and Gold 16 years. It will take a young person at least 6 months to do a Bronze Award, at least 12 months for a Silver Award and at least 18 months for Gold Award.

Each award has 4 areas: Expedition, Physical Recreation, Skills and Volunteering (formerly Service), and for the Gold Award there is also a Residential project which has to be completed.

The Queen's Badge has similar requirements to The Duke of Edinburgh's Award and young people can work on a programme that will result in both awards. All Projects in the Challenge Plus Programme have a direct link to a Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme. If a young person is intending to complete The Duke of Edinburgh's Award using a Project from Challenge Plus it will be necessary to ensure the length of time meets the requirements of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Further assistance and guidance can be offered through Battalion Duke of Edinburgh's Co-ordinators, and Regional and Brigade Headquarters. Have a look at www.theaward.org for more details.

The equivalent of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award in the Republic of Ireland is **Gaisce**. More information is available by contacting the Republic of Ireland Headquarters or visiting www.gaisce.ie