

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Volunteering: 12-18 months Silver or Gold

You may need to complete up to 12 months of volunteering to achieve your DofE Silver, and sometimes up to 18 months to achieve DofE Gold. You're making a long-term commitment to the library, so take the opportunity to make the role your own and shape it to your own interests and passions. Think about the kinds of projects or activities you want to run over a year (or more) and how you can work with library staff and other volunteers to make your ideas happen.

The role description below is intended to provide suggestions; use it as a starting point to discuss with library staff what you want to achieve during your volunteering experience.

In this role you might:

- Set up a Chatterbooks group or similar for children who visit the library. At the end of the 12 months the volunteer could train somebody else up to continue the group, or hand it over to a member of staff
- Set up a Reading Hack group for other young people to take part in creative reading activities (this might be best suited to older DofE volunteers)
- Plan and run a regular library event, such as monthly film nights
- Act as a trainer or mentor to other young volunteers
- Plan and promote young people's events or activities, such as Harry Potter Night
- Promote the Reading Well for Young People scheme
- Visit schools, colleges and youth groups to talk about what the library has to offer
- Act as a young people's representative/advisor in strategic library meetings
- Support other volunteers at a community managed library

Record your volunteering hours:

You can record your volunteering hours on www.readinghack.org.uk.

1. Select sign up/register in the top right corner of the homepage
2. Use the 'Duke of Edinburgh's Award' search option to search for hack ideas
3. Join the hacks that you'll do during your volunteering time e.g. 'read with another library user' or 'make a display'.
4. If you can't find a hack you want to do, add your own!
5. For each hack, scroll down to the activity log and add the number of hours you spent on it
6. At the end of your 12-18 months, download a skills letter to use as evidence.
7. Select 'People' then 'Profile'. Click 'Activity' to see all the hacks you've completed, then choose 'Download Skills Letter.'