

# Choosing a residential

## The key requirements

### Duration

A minimum of five days and four nights consecutively.

### Daytime activities

Learning or developing a skill, training for a qualification, or volunteering with a group.

### Evening activities

Spent with the group, whether organised activities or socialising and cooking together.

### People

Five or more people in the group (including you, and in addition to course leaders) that you don't know, and who don't know each other, doing the same activity or role as each other. An Assessor needs to be identified on the residential and engaged with during your time there.

### Accommodation

Staying together with the group, whether in tents, a hostel or other type of accommodation.

Find a range of opportunities for  
 residentials on the Opportunity Finder:  
[DofE.org/finder](http://DofE.org/finder)



# Other things to consider

## Organisation

- Must be with an organised group, registered charity or Approved Activity Provider.

## Activity

- The activity should take up the majority of the day.
- The activity should start by noon on the first day and finish at the earliest mid-afternoon on the last day (if the minimum five days).

## People

- You may know a few other people as long as:
  - you are joining a large group.
  - the vast majority are people not known to you or to each other.
  - you can be separated from the others that you know.
- You shouldn't know any of the staff, unless you can be separated from them.
- Other members of the group can be of any age and they don't need to be doing their DofE.
- Carers are allowed, if needed. Participants will need to agree this in advance with their Licensed Organisation.

## Accommodation

- You don't have to stay in the same accommodation each night, as long as the group is travelling and staying together.

## Training

- You should research your activity, skill or organisation before attending.
- Pre-residential training with the group, if essential, can be completed.

## Approval

- Your DofE Leader and Licensed Organisation must approve the residential beforehand.



# What won't count!

## Accommodation

- Homestays or staying separately from the group.
- Staying with relatives or friends.

## Daytime activities

- Your practice or qualifying expedition.
- Being paid, internships or work experience.
- Volunteering with a commercial organisation.
- Academic or school curriculum trips.
- Going on holiday.

## People

- School or youth group trips.
- Booking with friends, unless you know you are joining a large group and they are able to separate you during the daytime and evening activities.