**Dear Parent/Guardian/Participant (over 18), February 2025**

We are excited to welcome you to the Warehouse Open Centre. Please read this letter carefully before completing the registration process.

**Registration**

To register, please fill out the Warehouse Open Award Centre Registration Form using the link at <https://woc.org.uk/join-us>

**About Us**

For over fifteen years, we have been dedicated to offering the Award to young people. Due to high demand, we encourage only those truly committed to apply. Our leadership team consists of experienced and qualified volunteers who are passionate about guiding participants through the Award. The Award is

**Structure of the Award**

The Award consists of four sections, with an additional residential section at the Gold level:

1. **Physical**: Learn a new sport, such as indoor rock climbing, dancing, squash, or rugby.
2. **Skill**: Develop a new skill, from playing a musical instrument to learning a new language. There are hundreds of options!
3. **Volunteering**: Give back to the community by volunteering at a charity shop, conservation project, youth work, or elderly care home.
4. **Expedition**: Plan and undertake a self-sufficient expedition in rural/open country areas like the Mournes or the Antrim Plateau. (A separate medical form is required.)
5. **Residential (Gold Only)**: Spend 5 days and 4 nights away from home, participating in shared activities with new people. This is a chance to build on existing talents or learn something new while helping others.

**Commitment Required**

Participating in the Award is a significant commitment, often requiring a considerable amount of spare time. Ensure you have the time and dedication needed.

**Expedition Section**

Training for the expedition section starts in November on Wednesday evenings for about 10 weeks. This includes one-day practical sessions, practice, and qualifying expeditions. Attendance at all training sessions and practice weekends is mandatory. Additional training may be necessary if standards are not met.

**Meeting Schedule**

We meet on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM between October and May. Drop-in nights are available between May and September.

**Communication**

We distribute information via our website. Please provide your email address and ensure the consent box is ticked on the application form. This will be used for updates and notifications. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

**Policies**

We prioritize safety and have policies on expedition standards, bullying, behavior management, and health and safety. These are reviewed regularly and available upon request at info@woc.org.uk.

**Child Protection**

Our commitment to safeguarding includes creating a supportive environment where each young person can achieve their potential. Our child protection policy is available on request from the Designated Child Protection Lead at safeguarding@woc.org.uk.

**Fees**

The registration fees for the 2025/26 academic year are as follows:

* Bronze: £85 - (6 months to 18 months to complete\*)
* Silver: £115 - (6 months to 24 months to complete\*)
* Gold: £155 - (12 months to 36 months to complete\*)

Note: Fees cover licensing, equipment, expedition assessment, training, and more. Payment will be requested via bank transfer. (\* If time scales are exceeded a further fee may be required) .We do not offer refunds.

**Equipment**

We provide modern expedition equipment like tents, rucksacks, sleeping bags, stoves, and waterproof clothing. Participants must supply their own boots and personal clothing & food. Loaned equipment must be returned in good condition; damages will be invoiced.

**Important Points**

1. **Fitness**: Expeditions require walking for several days in hilly terrain with a loaded rucksack. Begin working on fitness well in advance.
2. **Equipment Care**: Participants are responsible for the repair or replacement of lost or damaged loaned equipment.
3. **Time Off School**: Expeditions may require time off school, and training may occur on weekends.
4. **Dates**: We aim to avoid key exam times but cannot accommodate all personal schedules.
5. **Standards**: Participants must meet fitness and behavior standards for safety.

We want every participant to have a rewarding experience. If you have any questions, please contact us for a Teams invite or email mark@woc.org.uk.

**Yours sincerely,**

**Mark Shaw**

 Manager