



Scouts N.I.



NIEX 2026

King's Scout/DofE Gold Expeditions

Scouts NI are now open for applications to take part in the 2026 round of NIEX expeditions. Places will be limited in numbers and so early sign up will be advantageous. In order to participate, you must fulfil the age requirements. You must only sign up if the participant can attend **ALL** trainings, as well as complete the practice and qualifying expeditions on the dates below. They must also be available on the back up practice expeditions dates in case external circumstance require the practice expedition be rescheduled.

The deposit for the King's Scout / Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition is to be paid online via <https://www.scoutsni.org/shop/> and sign up via the online form link under NIEX2026 at <https://www.scoutsni.org/news/>. Subsequent payments for King's Scout Expedition must be on time (within 14 days of the additional payment invoice being emailed out..)

Additional invoices will be sent out in November, January and March for between £100 and £125 each.

It should be also noted that after the 1st Planning day on the 1st November 2025, refunds can not be given should a participant drop out, as payments for many aspects of the trainings and expeditions have to be made in advance.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Registration

In addition to taking part in The King's Scout Expedition, should a participant wish to complete the matching Duke of Edinburgh Gold award, they must have either already registered via their local DofE Centre or register direct with Scouts NI centre in advance of the 1st training date.

Cost below does not include DofE Registration (currently an additional £37.50)

Cost -

King's Scout / DofE Gold Walking Expedition. Projected as approximately- £475

Deposit £150 Additional Payments total between £325 to £350 via 3 instalments

All Training and Practice Expeditions will take part in the Belfast Hills and Mourne Mountains, whilst the King's Scout (DofE Gold) Qualifying Expedition will take part in the Lake District in England.

Food – with a few exception*, all food must be supplied by the individual participants in co-ordination with their expedition colleagues to match the menu plan for the appropriate training / expeditions.

Ages

Kings's Scout participants must be a minimum of 16 years old on 1st February 2026.

All Participants must be under 25 years old on 1st September 2026.

*King's Scout Qualifying Expedition Exact details of Travel times and catering arrangements for the day prior to and after the expedition will be confirmed before June 2026. It is anticipated that departure will be early on Thursday morning and arrival back in Belfast will be late Tuesday evening

Expedition Kit and Equipment

Personal Kit – Each participant must have the following to take part – Walking boots that come up above the ankle, minimum 2 pairs Walking boot socks (eg Bridgedale, note - not cotton sports socks), Waterproof Jacket, Waterproof trousers, 65L Rucksack (or similar volume) capable of transporting all kit inside, Sleeping Mat, 3 or 4 season sleeping bag, personal 1st Aid kit, re-usable Water bottle / Reservoir, Polyester / Polypropylene / Merino Wool base layer, polyester fleece, personal clothing, snacks, food to match menu plan. Hat, gloves, personal wash kit, medication, etc. Silva expedition 4 Compass, Mournes 1:25000 Map. a means of sterilising or filtering water for drinking and cooking. Bowl (or plate), knife fork spoon or similar. Optional but recommended - Gaiters

Shared Kit – supplied by your scout group to share between 2 or 3 participants – lightweight 3 or 4 season 2 or 3 person tent, Gas Stove (gas Trangia or similar), Gas canisters to work with stove, Cooking pans.

Scouts NI will provide some safety items

Scout Group Support –

Your scout group will be expected to give support in some of the training and equipment requirements, including supply of shared equipment (tents, stove, etc) as well as assisting with practise cooking of meals, possible transport, extra practice of skills if deemed necessary.

Transport – Participants will be expected to be at the designated meeting point for all training and expeditions. For planning and trainings, this is usual the venue, for practice expeditions this will be the expedition start location in the Mourne Mountains, For The King's Scout Award Qualifying Expedition, meeting point will be Ardnally Scout Centre with minibus / Car transport to and from the expedition venue.

Insurance

The Scout Association has in place third part liability insurance policies to cover it's members and volunteers. Scouts N.I. will also take out travel insurance with Unity Insurance services to cover the Qualifying Expedition. Cover under this policy will not cover a participant withdrawing other than for medical reasons supported by confirmation from hospital authorities or your GP.

Dates

Training

10:00 to 16:30 Saturday 1st November 2025 - Route planning, Meal planning – Lisburn Indoor location to be confirmed

9:00 to 17:00 Saturday 15th November 2025 – REC1 1st Aid Qualification - Lisburn Scout Woodland, Dagger Road Lisburn. Trainer - Ciaran Kinney

09:30 – 17:30hrs Sunday 22nd February 2026 – Navigation Training – Mourne Mountains

18:30 – 21:30 Saturday 28th February 2026. Low light Navigation Training – Belfast Hills

10:00 Saturday 21st March to 16:30 Sunday 22nd March 2026 – Navigation training, Steep Ground, Advanced Navigation Training including low light. overnight camp, location, 1st Aid scenario's – Old School House, Slievenaman Road. Mourne Mountains

Expeditions

KSA / DofE Gold Practice Expedition

17:30 Friday 10th April to 18:00 Sunday 12th April 2026 - Mourne Mountains

Provisional Back Up Date KSA / DofE Gold Practice Expedition -

17:30 Friday 24th April to 18:30 Sunday 26th April 2026 - Mourne Mountains

KSA / Gold Qualifying Expedition (GB)

Thursday 20th August to Tuesday 25th August 2026 - Lake District England.

Informed Consent

Walking anywhere carries risks as does traveling by vehicle and crossing the sea by ship. All of these modes of transport will be used.

All trainers, supervisors and assessors involved in Scouts NI NIEX scheme are experienced in Hill and Mountain environments and hold either National Governing Body Awards and/or Scout Hill Walking Permits. Parents/Guardians and Participants should be aware that Hill Walking training and expeditions require a good level of physical fitness. There are a number of hazards that could cause distress/ injury or death, such as rough, slippery, rocky ground conditions, challenging weather, fast flowing streams/ narrow rivers, steep ground, large rocks, etc. The personal equipment specified along with the training given, will reduce any risk significantly, but risk can not be totally eliminated and as such there is a possibility that a participant could be injured or killed.

Although unlikely, the risk of death or serious injury could occur and should be acknowledged. If you believe this risk to be unacceptable, you should not sign up for participation.

In order to ensure risks are reduced, participants must have appropriate clothing, expedition kit and equipment mentioned above and as such if a participant turns up for any training or expedition without the specified items they will not be allowed to continue. There will be no monetary refunds if this occurs. All Practice and Qualifying Expeditions are unaccompanied and as such each one is self-reliant.

Whilst Adult Supervisors and Assessors will be in the vicinity of the expedition, at any one point in time, they may be a few kilometres away. It should also be noted that should a participant voluntarily withdraw from the expedition or suffer an injury that the Supervisors judge significant enough to require withdrawal from completing the expedition, no refund can be given and they will not pass the expedition section. By signing up yourself (over 18's) or sign up your Child, you are acknowledge and accept the above statement of physical, monetary and psychological consequences and risks.