

**Parent/Carer
Information
Meeting
30/04/2026**

BRONZE D OF E



DATES AND TIMES GROUP A / GROUP B



Group A PRACTICE – FRIDAY 8TH MAY 8:30AM / SATURDAY 9TH MAY 2/4:00PM

Group A QUALIFYING – SATURDAY 16TH MAY 8:30AM/ SUNDAY 17TH MAY 2/4:00PM

Group B PRACTICE – FRIDAY 5TH JUNE 8:30AM / SATURDAY 6TH JUNE 2/4:00PM

Group B QUALIFYING – SATURDAY 13TH JUNE 8:30AM/ SUNDAY 14TH JUNE 2/4:00PM



WHAT'S INCLUDED IN YOUR BRONZE EXPEDITION TRAINING

- Navigation / Route Planning
- First Aid and Emergency Procedures
- Camp Craft – Tents and Tarp Shelter; Expedition Cooking and Nutrition
- Teamwork – Team Dynamics, Expectations of Each Other, Roles.
- Countryside Code/Leave No Trace
- Health and Safety
- Kit Expectations and Ideas (aimed at enhancing the hiking)
- Appropriate Use of Mobile Phones to Support DofE



FOOD AND NUTRITION

- **Students need to supply their own food for LUNCHTIME during both the practice and qualifying. As part of the price, the expedition company will be providing BREAKFAST and DINNER**
- For training, students need food for Friday and Saturday lunch.
- For qualifying, students need food for Saturday and Sunday lunch.
- Students wishing to bring their own food to cook should bring something simple to prepare, like boil-in-the-bag: porridge, noodles, meals and soups are good examples of what to bring.
- Students may choose to be more adventurous with cooking, but if they do, the dishes must be cleared and washed and the place left spotless.
- **Snacks** – cereal bars, flapjack, chocolate (if weather isn't too warm), cheeses, meats in their own wrapper.
- **Fluids** – nothing fizzy, water, juices, dilutable juice (like Robinsons high concentrate), or hot drinks which have their own sachet
- **Allergies** – these need to be disclosed if they were not on the original MS Teams form or the school system.



KIT LIST (ON TEAMS)

- For the practice weekend, the complete kit list is not essential; however, please attempt to bring along items as close to the prescribed kit list as possible.
- On the practice weekend, students carry a minimal amount. For the qualifying, their bags should be 20% of their body weight.
- **Footwear, clothing and sleeping equipment** needs to be as close to the prescribed kit list as possible.
- Pack appropriate clothing based on the weather: beware the weather may be changeable in May and June; please be prepared.
- For qualifying, students will not be permitted to start if they do not have waterproof trousers and jacket. There will be a bag check at the drop-off location before parents/carers leave.
- Female students are advised to bring sanitary products



MOBILE PHONES

- These are permitted on the trip
- Students use their phones as a resource to support their experience
- Leaders will be introducing students to the Inaturist app'
- Phones will be handed into GMS PE staff for the evening
- Students need to experience being as independent as possible, so phone usage will be for the expedition process only and not social media, or calling home etc



REMOTE TRACKING + GMS STAFF CONTACT

- Student groups will be issued a remote tracking device.
- This device, much the same as a luggage air tag, will be monitored by the GMS staff and the group leaders from AAP.
- Remote tracking supports the safety of the students and allows staff to monitor their progress.
- Even though students do have their mobile phones, please refrain from contacting them – there will be phone numbers for the GMS staff issued via email before the weekend; these can be used in an emergency.



DROP OFF AND PICK UP POINTS

The drop-off and pick-up points will be rural car parks in the Oxfordshire direction

Once the students have planned their routes, they will know where they are starting and finishing – this is guided/supported by their group leader from AAP

AAP will provide Mr Goodright with OS coordinates, landmarks, postcodes and 'what3words' for these locations.

These details will be forwarded to all parents/carers with a drop-off and pick-up time. For the pick-up, if students are ahead or behind schedule, they can contact parents/carers and let them know.

If students are sharing lifts (good idea), we will need to receive written communication explaining who is with whom – GMS staff will not be at the car parks, so the group leaders need to have this verified.



BEHAVIOUR & EXPECTATIONS

- Normal GMS expectations apply.
- Normal GMS sanctions apply.
- The APP leaders need to be treated as members of staff.
- Expedition leaders are in charge of the students throughout the day.
- GMS PE staff are in charge of the students overnight from 6 pm – 8 am the following day.



QUESTIONS?