

Delivering the Award during the COVID-19

Like most organisations, we are responding to COVID-19 directions and advice from NSW Health and other government agencies and are reviewing our operations daily to maintain ongoing services.

This document outlines immediate changes to the way the Office of Sport will support and service Award Centres and also includes a number of different and innovative suggestions to assist Award Leaders and Participants through their Award in these challenging times.

1. Business as usual, delivered differently

Whilst maintaining social distancing is important, we have continued supporting our Award Centres and Leaders through remote digital platforms such as Skype for Business and Microsoft TEAMS and are continuing to use for more contemporary [Award Leader training](#).

We have the capability to deliver the majority of our support and administration services remotely, so for us our operation remains stable.

The ORB Help Desk remains the prime contact for ORB technical issues and if you are unable to reach them by phone, they are contactable via orb@dukeofed.com.au and are more than happy to return phone calls as required.

2. Changes to Award Leader training

With the growing need for social distancing, we have stopped delivering Face to Face Level 2 training and will deliver this via TEAMS. All registrations will be notified by email with the next steps and instructions. See our [Events page](#) for scheduled training

3. Closed FB group

We encourage Award Leaders to share ideas and discussions through the '[Duke of Ed NSW Award Leader](#)' Facebook community. This is a closed forum for Award Leaders only and content is updated on a regular basis.

4. Voluntary Service

4.1 Virtual Volunteering

['Invisible volunteering'](#) - this ABC News article highlights an example of 'virtual volunteers' including an 'online army' of millennials quietly contributing in regional and remote communities.

Some suggested websites for Virtual Voluntary Service activities.

- [Do Something Near You: Virtual Volunteering](#)
- [Seek Volunteer:](#)
- [NSW Volunteering](#)

- [Go Volunteer](#)
- [UN Volunteers](#)

4.2 Reduced contact Activity ideas

- Walking the dog of an elderly/disabled/immuno-compromised person
- Provide basic gardening services to an elderly/disabled/immuno-compromised person
- Doing a grocery shop for someone who is unable to leave home
- Animal welfare (help out at an animal shelter/rescue)

4.3 Non-contact Activity ideas

- Bundle care packs of toilet paper, hand sanitiser & other necessities for the elderly/disabled/immuno-compromised people
- Writing letters to elderly people, or kids in hospitals, who would be unable to have visitors
- Creating or maintaining a website/social media page for community groups
- Caring for a school or community garden
- Environmental clean-up campaigns at school, local parks or beaches
- Do an online First Aid course (with a view to do the practical FA service later)
- For those already helping coach/teach – what about doing classes/sessions via Skype or other online video stream?
- Knitting beanies, scarves and other items for community groups
- Planting native trees or revegetation projects
- Tutoring/mentoring younger students (including Reading Buddies) via Skype/online means
- Making toys or collecting books for disadvantaged children

5. Adventurous Journey

5.1 Adventurous Journey options

The [February 2020 Award Leader newsletter](#) included a number of suggestions for progressing the Adventurous Journey section of the Award through environmental challenges, including the option for Participants to start their next level before completing their current level where particular requirements have been met.

5.2 Social Distancing and Adventurous Journeys

It is completely understandable and prudent to postpone Adventurous Journeys (AJ) during COVID-19. The Award will always defer to the relevant Award Centre's risk assessment policy and procedures. If you are outsourcing, you should always consult

with your AJ Provider. With this in mind, some Award Centres may want to still conduct AJs with appropriate adjustments to their usual risk assessments.

Control measures may include:

- Participants making their own way to starting point (ie rather than group transport).
- No tent sharing.
- No group cooking or shared cooking utensils and equipment.
- Individual water bottles and purifiers.
- No sharing of equipment, navigation aids eg maps and compasses.
- Personal hygiene is paramount; hand wash regularly throughout the day.
- UHF radios used for communications between Participants and Supervisors at an appropriate distance.

6. Duke of Ed National Award Office (NAO) information sheet

The NAO have also created a [dedicated webpage](#) which includes a high level [resource](#) developed by NAO/International Award Foundation (IAF) to assist with the delivery of the Award through COVID-19. Other national and international resources will be posted on [this page](#) as they are developed.