



Nurturing a Love for Nature

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S  
INTERNATIONAL AWARD  
AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND | HILLARY AWARD



# Working Together

A guide to completing your Duke of Edinburgh's Hillary Award with IMAgEN8

## What is the Duke of Edinburgh's Hillary Award and why should I get involved?

The concept of the Duke of Edinburgh's Hillary Award (the Award) is simple – anyone aged 14 to 24 can do a programme at one of three progressive levels which, when successfully completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award.

Because Award programmes are all about getting out there, having fun and self-development, everyone can achieve something. You'll find yourself helping people or the community, getting fitter, developing skills, going on an adventurous journey and at Gold level only, taking part in a residential activity.

## What do I need to do to achieve my Duke of Edinburgh's Hillary Award?

The programme is made up of four sections (five at Gold). Over the required time you'll need to do each activity for an average of an hour a week. You'll need to show persistence, commitment, and personal development.

### Bronze (14+ years old)

To achieve your Bronze Award, you need to complete the following sections:

Voluntary Service	Physical	Skills	Adventurous Journey
3 months	3 months	3 months	Plan, train for and complete a 2 day, 1 night adventurous journey
You must also undertake a <b>further</b> three months of appropriate activity in either the Voluntary Service, Physical or Skills section			

### Silver (15+ years old)

To achieve your Silver Award, you need to complete the following sections:

Voluntary Service	Physical	Skills	Adventurous Journey
6 months	6 months	6 months	Plan, train for and complete a 3 day, 2 night adventurous journey
If you have not completed your Bronze Award, you must undertake a <b>further</b> six months of appropriate activity in either the Voluntary Service, Physical or Skills section			If you have not completed your Bronze Award, you must first complete your Bronze Adventurous Journey training and Bronze practice journey

### Gold (16+ years old)

To achieve your Gold Award, you need to complete the following sections:

Voluntary Service	Physical	Skills	Adventurous Journey	Gold Residential Project
12 months	12 months	12 months	Plan, train for and complete a 4 day, 3 night adventurous journey	Undertake a shared activity in a residential setting away from home for 5 days and 4 nights
If you have not completed your Silver Award, you must undertake a <b>further</b> six months of appropriate activity in either the Voluntary Service, Physical or Skills section			If you are a Direct Entrant Gold, you must first complete your Bronze and then your Silver Adventurous Journey training and practice journey	



## Choosing activities

There are a lot of activities you may already be doing that can count towards your Award. Here are a few examples to help get you started:

**Voluntary Service:** You can coach or manage a sports team (like netball!), be an umpire, fundraise for a charity, volunteer at the SPCA, become a leader at a youth club, help with an emergency services team such as surf lifesaving.

**Physical:** do a team sport such as netball, soccer, athletics, skiing, kayaking, kickboxing, horse riding, running, dancing

**Skills:** you can capture nature and upgrade your photography skills, you can learn to, and then continue to referee or umpire for a sport, play a musical instrument, learn a craft such as jewellery making, learn sign language, drama, and theatre skills

**Adventurous Journey:** this is something you will plan for; it involves being part of a team and completing an adventurous journey for a set number of days

**Gold Residential Project (Gold Award only):** attend a residential programme for five days and four nights with people you don't know and undertake purposeful activity – e.g., Netball Tournament participation, helping at a youth camp, cookery course, sailing course

## IMAgEN8

IMAgEN8 is a registered charity whose purpose is to foster sustainable connections with New Zealand's natural environment in our diverse communities through education, photography, and technology.

They conduct nature photography workshops on school grounds and nature reserves that connect students with Nature, enhance their wellbeing, build skills, and foster environmental stewardship through creative expression. Students' work is published in books and a digital magazine, Compassionate Nature. Their Duke of Edinburgh's Hillary Award program enables students to capture compelling stories about Nature. They also create educational content for tamariki to learn and be inspired.

IMAgEN8 focuses on fostering mental wellbeing, skill development and kaitiakitanga through nature photography. With a focus on participants at the heart of the charity, their academic and practical upskilling courses, participation in photography skills and opportunities to connect with their environment perfectly in line with achieving your Award.

## What Does This Involve?

This activity aligns with the skills section and meets requirements for the three levels of the Award. Spend 13 weeks learning the technical and artistic aspects of photography. This is a program for student photographers wanting to learn digital photography and post-processing skills and tell stories about nature in New Zealand. IMAgEN8 will loan a Canon 3000d dSLR camera to each participating student, provide photography mentors, organise workshops, projects, and educational sessions for the cohort, and help publish the students' work in their magazine, book, and other national media.

The program consists of 7 workshops for a cohort of 5 students. All in-person workshops are held at a nature reserve or park. Webinars are held via Zoom video call. Dates for the workshops are listed on application form.

This skills development program connects students with Nature, builds photography and creative skills, develops mental wellbeing, and fosters love for nature reserves, parks, and open spaces in their neighbourhood. They believe that by forming deep connections to our natural environment, we are happier, more compassionate, conserve what we love, and live sustainably. "In Nature, there is deep wellness". Cost: \$200 per student. Limited to 5 students at a time in the Auckland area.

Learn the technical and artistic aspect of photography and be creators of content with nature as the context.

- **Photography basics**  
An introduction to all the core fundamentals of photography, including how to use a digital SLR camera, exposure principles, aperture, shutter speed, depth of field, composition basics and more.
- **Workshops**  
Practical workshops give you the opportunity to practice nature photography
- **Managing and editing your photos**  
Learn to use Adobe Lightroom to bring out the best in your photos
- **Mentors and support**  
Projects to give you a goal to work towards. Mentors to help you along your journey. Webinars and video tutorials to help you skill up.

## Getting started

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**Step 1** Decide which level of the Duke of Edinburgh's Hillary Award programme you would like to do – this will depend on your age, time commitments etc

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**Step 2** Talk to your Award Leader and arrange to register to do your Award programme

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**Step 3** Decide with your Award Leader what you are going to do for each section of your Award programme

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**Step 4** Get started! Don't forget to log your progress on ORB, our online record book, and ask your Assessors to sign off each section as you complete them

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**Step 5** Once your Award programme is complete, speak to your Award Leader who will arrange for you to receive your certificate or badge. They can also advise you about starting the next level of the Award if appropriate.

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## How long will it take?

The time it will take to complete your programme and achieve an Award is in many ways down to you. The shortest time in which you can complete your Bronze programme is 6 months; your Silver programme, 6 months; and your Gold programme, 12 months. During your programme you'll need to do each activity for an average of an hour a week over this time. Don't forget – you have until your 25<sup>th</sup> birthday to complete any programme and achieve an Award!

## Find out more...

Talk to your Award Leader to get more information and take a look at <https://dofehillary.org.nz/> and [www.imagen8.co.nz](http://www.imagen8.co.nz)  
Contact Tushar Sharma via email [tushar@imagen8.co.nz](mailto:tushar@imagen8.co.nz)

