

## What will the Adventurous Journeys look like until the end of 2020?\*

\* All changes apply from 1.5.2020

**Primarily we must comply with all of the hygienic and safety measures and follow the regulations of the Government and other relevant institutions!**

**Yes, I understand this. What are my options then?**

**1. I want to organise an Adventurous Journey at an Award Centre under normal circumstances**

a) I am able to finish the Training partially or in its entirety online

b) If I am sure that my team is well prepared and has met all of the conditions set by the National Centre (see point 1b) - with the awareness of my Regional Manager - we can waive the Practice Journey.

b) I can combine the Practice AJ with the Training.

c) If I have the opportunity not to change anything, I simply organise the Adventurous Journey the way, we at our AC, are accustomed to.

**2. I want to organise Adventurous Journeys at an Award Centre but I fear I might not have enough participants or supervisors/assessors**

I can contact my Regional Manager that will connect me with another Award Centre in the region facing similar situation.

**3. This year we can't afford to organise Adventurous Journeys at our AC for time-related, capacity or other reasons**

I can use the services of a DofE approved activity provider (paid option). More information will be provided by my Regional Manager.

## Changes in the rules and organization of Adventurous Journeys from 1. 5. 2020

**IMPORTANT: All variants involving physical contact of participants are currently applicable only if their implementation does not contradict any effective security measures and regulations of the Government and other relevant institutions, such as a ban on gatherings of over a certain number of people. At the same time, it is necessary that the participants, their legal representatives (related to participants under 18 years of age) and also the management of the Award Centre agree with the organization and participation in an Adventurous Journey (AC management's permission is not required in the case of Adventurous Journeys organized by the National Centre). You can always consult everything with your Regional Manager.**

The current crisis situation has provoked great debates in the DofE community around the world and has opened up many topics on how to grasp the development of expeditions in the short and long term. Even for us at the National Centre, it is very important to constantly react to the development of the situation and provide you with quality support even in difficult times. We have therefore decided to make several changes that will give you more options for managing Adventurous Journeys. Although most of the changes were initiated by the crisis development, we will collect your feedback and work with the possibility of these changes permanently remaining a part of the process of preparation and implementation of AJs.

These [15 international requirements](#), are still conditional for the successful completion of Adventurous Journeys with the following modifications (valid until the end of year 2020):

- **No. 2: Size of the group is 4 -8 team members, regardless the mode of travel**
  - It is still important to ensure that each team member is involved in the preparation and planning as much as possible
- **No. 5: The Practice Journey can be waived, if considered appropriate**
  - the Practice AJ is considered completed if the team meets all the conditions proving its preparedness for a Qualifying AJ after completing the Training - see point 1b)
- **No. 7: Qualifying Journey can take place in a familiar (urban) environment**
  - Due to the risks associated with traveling by public transport it is possible to undertake the AJ in the immediate vicinity of the school / place of residence of the group members or the place of overnight stay
- **No. 12: Place of overnight stay can be adapted to the environment in which the expedition takes place**
  - It is possible to spend the night in the school yard, in the school gym or with the permission of the owner in the garden or on the plot
- **It is not necessary to log the AJ in the ORB several months in advance, two weeks are enough (due to the insurance of the participants)**

## 1. Changes in the organization of Adventurous Journeys at the Award Centre

Not only in response to the crisis situation, we have decided to simplify the entire system of AJs as much as possible. We present you with several ways of organizing Trainings and AJs, and more details regarding the possibility to waive the Practice Journey.

### a) Online Training

The goal of this “measure” is to give you more flexibility and reduce the amount of time, which the Supervisor needs to spend to deliver the training. You can freely use this option and online materials also in the future.

- If the trainers at your Award Centre speak Czech, you can use the [AJ Manual](#), which covers all 12 chapters of Adventurous Journey Training. It contains a number of links to tutorial videos or articles, tips for activities and suggestions for video meetings. Many videos are in English.
- In addition to the AJ Manual, it is possible to draw inspiration from the materials of independent DofE approved AJ providers.
  - [On this page](#) you will find complete materials for Adventurous Journey Training, which can be easily adapted to the online form.
  - [Under this link](#) you can register for an online Training that will take your participants through all areas for a fee and without your intervention.
  - Other useful materials can be found for example [here](#).

### b) Possibility to waive the Practice Journey

The Practice Journey, together with the Training, serve to prepare the participants for a successful and independent management of Qualifying AJ. However, if you work with a capable group (some members have extensive experience with staying in nature, participants have already passed lower levels, etc.), it is possible to waive the Practice Journey. It can also apply to the situation, when the absence of students in schools significantly complicates the planning and implementation of AJs.

In any case, a few conditions have to be met:

- Notify your Regional Manager
- Be sure that the team meets well-defined [conditions for assessing its preparedness for a Qualifying Adventurous Journey](#).
- Create the Practice Journey in the ORB. Set the date of the Practice AJ as the last day of the Training and make a note with information about it not taking place due to exceptional measure.

During a Qualifying Adventurous Journey, we strongly recommend paying increased attention and carefully considering whether to let the group travel alone. Without a Practice AJ, we recommend the constant presence of a Supervisor or an Assessor overseeing the group. Supervision should not interfere with the group's processes, unless there is an imminent danger or high material damage.

**c) Journey Training associated with Practice Adventurous Journey**

As another option, we would like to introduce to you the experiential concept of Training, which will prepare participants for Qualifying AJ in a practical way and with the help of interactive tasks.

**The main elements of a Training associated with Practice Journey are following:**

- AJ Training will take place continuously in a time block corresponding to the length of the purposeful effort (bronze 6 hours, silver 7 hours, gold 8 hours)
- It will cover the main objectives of the Practice AJ and after its completion the group meets well-defined [conditions for assessing preparedness for a Qualifying AJ](#)
- Activities should be built in such a way that participants are practicing individual blocks of Training in an experiential form. This brings enhanced ability to listen and communicate with each other, increased ability to solve problems and work in a team.
- Do not forget about acquiring the necessary skills such as orientation and navigation, first aid training or behaviour in a crisis situation.
- The activities can look like this:
  - A short lecture on navigation associated with an orienteering race/walk.
  - Packing the backpack on time and then a short march with the mutual exchange of backpacks between the participants (the aim of the activity is to point out how important it is to have a backpack properly packed and set up).
  - A challenge for which team will be the first to start a fire and set up a tent with some restrictions (blindfolded, tied hands, etc.).
- Training can take place in the schoolyard, just outside the city or in another suitable place.
- The Training is followed by a night spent outside (at the bronze level **it is not mandatory**), which can be immediately followed by a Qualifying Adventurous Journey.
- We are developing a new methodology for this type of training in Czech, which we can translate into English in case of your interest.

**d) "Offline" Training, traditional form of Practice and Qualifying Adventurous Journey**

The form of "classic Adventurous Journeys", i.e. the way you have organized Training and Journeys so far, is certainly absolutely fine. Take the above stated as an effort to accommodate you and offer you more options and tools. If you are satisfied with how you have expeditions set up on your AC, and you have the opportunity to organize them in this way before the calendar year end, you do not need to change anything at all. Just remember to be extra careful and follow increased hygienic measures.

## 2. Joined Journeys - cooperation of two or more Award Centres

This option is not new at all and some of you have probably already got some experience with it. The principle is quite simple: If you do not have enough participants or Supervisors / Assessors at the Award Centre, you can contact another Award Centre and plan a Journey together. For this purpose, we have recently created the so-called "AJ exchange chart", which is freely available to everyone at [this link](#).

The AJ exchange chart is available to you at all times. In the current situation, however, we ask you to contact your Regional Manager if you are interested in cooperating with another Centre. They will connect you with another Centre that's in a similar situation. The whole process is then faster and more efficient.

**Joined Journeys have their own specifics, so here are some recommendations that will contribute to successful cooperation:**

1. It is important to note that the Award Centre's license does not allow it to take full responsibility for participants from a different Award Centre. Therefore, each AC is responsible for its students / participants. The DofE National Centre acts only as a mediator of contact between the Award Centres.
2. It is necessary to define which AC will carry out the Journey (hereinafter referred to as the AJ Provider) and which AC will provide participants (hereinafter referred to as the Sending Centre)
3. The AJ Provider will provide the Sending Centre with an elaborated route plan and contact information for the Supervisor / person in charge.
4. The Sending Centre shall present the AJ Provider with a contact of the Sending Centre's person in charge and of the parents of the sent participants.
5. The Sending AC will confirm in writing to the AJ Provider that the sent participants have successfully completed the AJ Training, i.e. the Practice AJ.
6. The Sending Centre shall provide the AJ Provider with the consent of the parents / legal guardians to participate under the direction of the AJ Provider.
7. The AJ Provider will collect medical questionnaires and consents to participate from parents / legal guardians of all the participants. The AJ Provider undertakes to handle these documents in accordance with the GDPR Act and will shred them after the Adventurous Journey has finished.
8. During a Training and Qualifying Adventurous Journey, the Head / Coordinator of the Sending Centre must be available on the phone so that the Supervisor of the Providing Centre can contact him in the event of a problem affecting the sent participant.
9. Ideally, during a Qualifying AJ, a Supervisor from the Providing Centre and an Assessor from the Sending Centre are present or vice versa. If this is not possible, the sending AC will consider whether it will want the presence of another adult on the AJ.
10. Each Centre registers the AJ individually in the ORB. The notes on the AJ should state that it took place in cooperation with the Providing Centre, please state the name of the organization and the total number of participants.

### **3. Adventurous Journeys organized under the DofE AJ Centre**

Another way to manage AJs not only this year is to send out participants to an AJ organized by a DofE approved activity provider. One of the possibilities is to make use of AJs organized by the DofE National Centre or to contact another organization. In both cases, it is a paid option and the prices vary according to the level of Adventurous Journey and the provider of choice. For more information, contact your Regional Manager, who will explain all the options in detail.