



AWARD CHANGES LIVES

*Setting them up for success
through Experiential Learning*

The Award Changes Lives

Not all learning happens in the classroom – in fact some of life’s biggest lessons happen in the least likely locations. As the world’s leading non-formal education framework, the Award focuses on developing the wider life skills which help young people ensure they are truly ready for the world. By recognizing the amazing things they do and learn outside the boundaries of formal education, the Award empowers them to discover hidden talents, develop untapped leadership potential and make a difference in their community.

The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award is recognized worldwide, providing your child with an internationally respected credential. Any organisation with young people from the ages of 14 – 24 can deliver the Award. This recognition can open doors to global opportunities and networks.

Since 1963, we have helped motivate young people in Canada to set goals and challenge themselves to take control of their lives and futures. Today, Award Canada can be found coast to coast to coast, engaging over 11,000 young people and over 1,400 adult volunteers annually.

Why the Award?

Raising a resilient, capable youth who grows into a contributing member of society is a priority for many parents. Parents strive to build strong bonds and ensure a secure, nurturing relationship that fosters emotional development. In a loving and safe environment where youth feel valued, presenting them with challenges and offering supportive encouragement are effective ways to boost their resilience and positively impact their mental health.

The future of work is...



Manual to
Machine
Learning



Technology to
Human Skills



Fixed
to Flex



Profit
to People



Generational divide
to intergenerational
connection



Security
to Purpose

In recent large-scale research done by McCrindle, parents, teachers, youth and education administration, identified six key changes to how the future of work will look like – a future your child/ward will need to thrive in. Similar studies conducted by RBC, McKinsey and many of the other leading research institutes have confirmed similar findings.

Educators in Canada, and elsewhere, have recognised that the jobs that youth are being prepared for today do not exist. Increasingly, skills, competencies, behaviours and experiences in and outside of the formal classroom setting are being recognised as more important to be prepared and ready for an adapting, uncertain and changing future. Increasing usage of technology and Artificial Intelligence, flexible working arrangements, and purposeful work are just some of the elements of the new world of work.

Learning to do by doing

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is an exceptional opportunity to achieve these goals – bridging cognitive, physical, emotional and behavioural developmental themes. This program not only provides structured challenges that develop essential life skills but also creates a supportive community that reinforces a youth's sense of belonging. By participating in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, parents and guardians can help them thrive emotionally and socially, setting them on a path to success and well-being.

An important aspect of the Award is the opportunity for young people to connect with adults who share similar interests and passions. Mentors not only teach valuable skills but also help youth explore their purpose. Making these adult connections is a crucial part of a young person's development, providing them with role models and a support system that can guide them through their formative years.



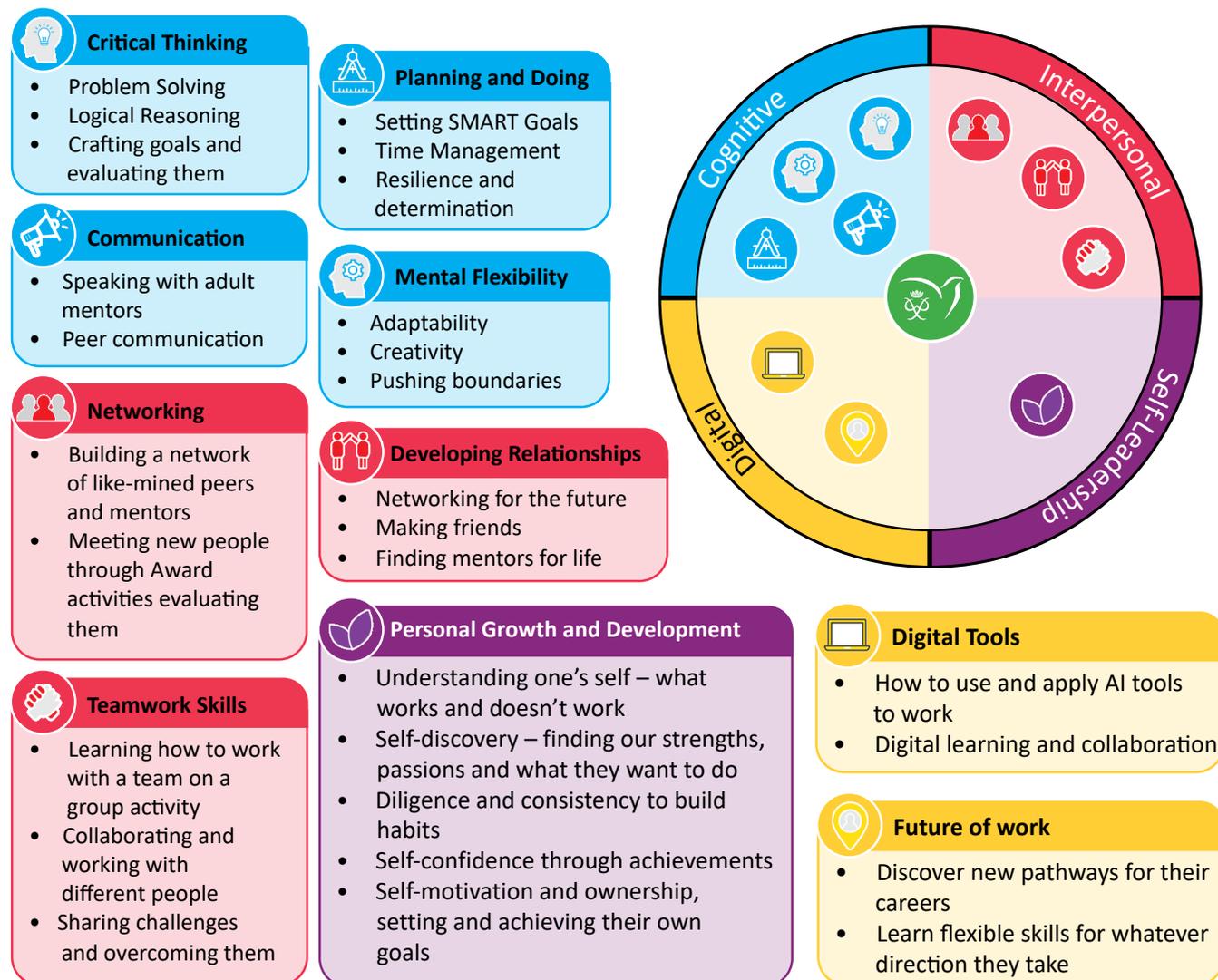
In the 2020 Education Future Report, it was found that...

of parents believe schools should provide individualised education to some extent.

Through the Award, your child/ward will have a great opportunity to explore more unique pathways towards their personal development, complimenting what they learn academically with what they'll learn with the Award.

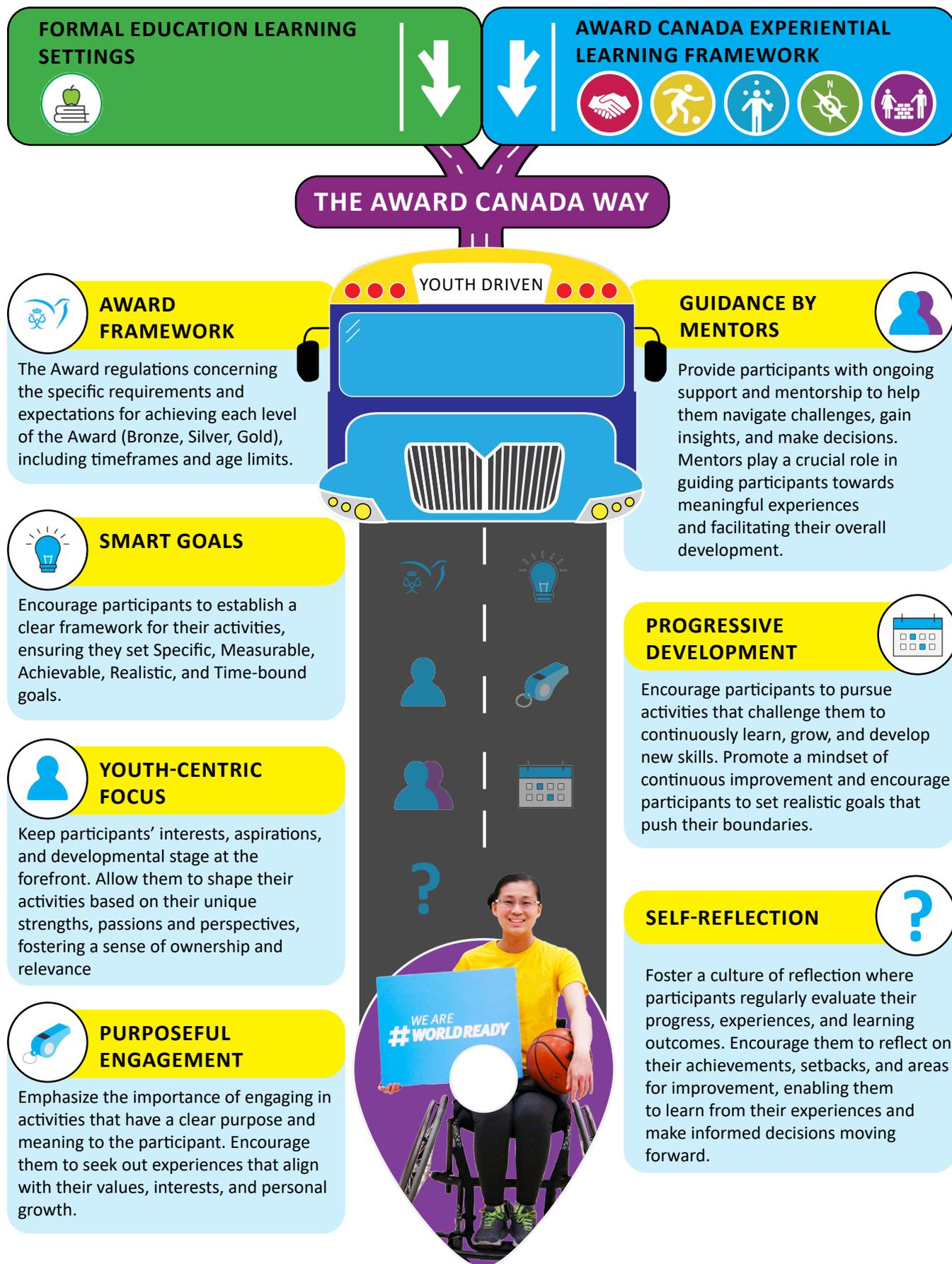
Award Value Added for Our Participants

The Award plays a vital role in providing opportunities for young people to develop essential universal life skills, ensuring they thrive in the new world of work. The Award adds value in a multitude of ways:



The Award Canada Way bridges the gap:

The Award Canada Way helps young people build and develop the skills that will support them as they navigate the transition from youth to adulthood. It bridges what they learn in the classroom to what they'll do outside of it.



The Award Learning Framework and Benefits

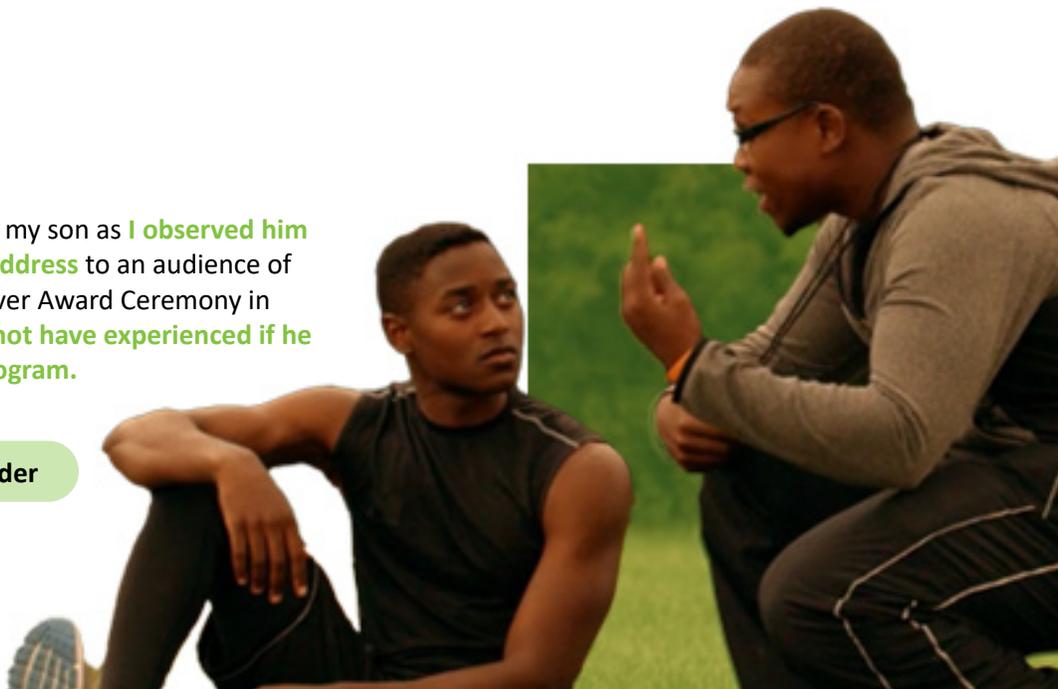
The Award is a personal development experience and this is the Way to get there.

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| AWARD ACTIVITY SECTIONS |  Voluntary Service Participants volunteer in their communities, making a positive contribution to society and demonstrating social responsibility. |  | AWARD LEVELS |
| |  Physical Recreation Young people improve their fitness and performance, and build a healthy lifestyle which encourages good mental health and physical well-being. |  | |
| |  Skill Development Participants develop their talents, broadening their abilities, increasing their self confidence and improving their employability. |  | |
| |  Adventurous Journey Young people discover a spirit of adventure and discovery while planning and undertaking a journey with a peer group. |  | |
| |  Gold Project Participants broaden their experience by staying in an unfamiliar environment with other young people, taking part in a purposeful project and building new relationships. |  | |
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I witnessed particular growth in my son as I **observed him draft, practice, and deliver an address** to an audience of three hundred people at the Silver Award Ceremony in Toronto, **a challenge he would not have experienced if he was not a participant in this program.**

Patricia, Parent of Award Holder



The Award offers numerous benefits to young people, making it a compelling program for parents to consider. Here are key value propositions:

1. Personal Development

- **Confidence and Self-Esteem:** The program encourages youth to step out of their comfort zones, helping them build confidence and self-esteem.
- **Resilience and Perseverance:** Participants learn to overcome challenges, fostering resilience and perseverance.



2. Skill Building

- **Life Skills:** The award involves activities that teach valuable life skills such as cooking, navigation, and time management.
- **Social Skills:** Team-based activities and expeditions promote teamwork, communication, and leadership skills.

3. Physical and Mental Health

- **Physical Activity:** The physical section of the award promotes a healthy, active lifestyle.
- **Mental Well-being:** Engaging in new hobbies and achieving personal goals can significantly improve mental health.



4. Volunteering or Community Engagement

- **Volunteering:** The program includes a service component, encouraging participants to contribute to their communities, which fosters empathy and civic responsibility.

5. Academic and Career Advantages

- **University Applications:** Many universities recognize and value the DofE Award, seeing it as a mark of well-roundedness and commitment.
- **Employment Opportunities:** Employers often appreciate the skills and experiences gained through the program, which can enhance job prospects.
- **Global Recognition:** The Award is internationally recognized, which can be advantageous for opportunities abroad, whether in education or employment.



6. Structured and Supportive Environment:

- **Mentorship:** Participants receive guidance and support from leaders and mentors throughout their journey.
- **Goal Setting:** The structured framework helps youth set and achieve personal goals, providing a sense of direction and accomplishment.
- **Peer Connections:** The program offers opportunities to meet and work with peers from diverse backgrounds, fostering friendships and networks that can last a lifetime.

Don't Just Believe Us!

The United Kingdom, which has more than 350,000 youth participate annually in the Award has conducted longitudinal studies and partnered with key research institutes to quantify the benefit from the Award. The National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) has conducted studies related to the Award, quantifying and supporting the value proposition of the Award for parents and youth.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

NFER research highlighted the positive effects of the Award on young people's mental health and wellbeing. Participants reported feeling more confident in overcoming difficult

Participants reported feeling more confident in....



overcoming difficult situations



being more independent



and feel that life is more worthwhile.

Improved Education and Employment Prospects:



agreed or strongly agreed that the Award enhanced their CV or university/college applications.

Fun and Enjoyable Learning and Growth:



of respondents agreed that doing the Award is fun and enjoyable and



said that it made them proud of what they can achieve.

“

My son is disabled and I wanted to make sure that the Award would adapt to his needs and challenge him in ways that he is capable of achieving. **After speaking with our local award office, I knew that the Award would allow him to achieve the goals he set.**

Andrea, Parent of Award Holder



Award Outcomes - Future Ready

By doing the Award, your child/ward will develop skills and attitudes that will shape them into confident, well-rounded adults - qualities that colleges, universities, and employers are actively seeking. The Award not only boosts their academic credentials but also helps them build a rich network of like-minded peers and mentors. This network can open doors to exciting opportunities and lifelong friendships. As they work towards their Award, your child will gain practical experience and skills that are essential in today's fast-paced and ever-changing world.

Further Reading: Want to read more about the literature behind delivering Award outcomes through our Framework? [Check this out here.](#)

Supporting your child in their pursuit of the Award is more than just encouraging them to earn a prestigious accolade; it's making a strategic investment in their future.

The Award program helps young people develop the following skills with the support of Award Leaders and Mentors, our Resources and Pedagogy, an Award Culture for them to thrive in, and with the tools and resources to progress through the Award program.

Helping to unlock

- Resilience & Determination
- Confidence
- Interpersonal Skills
- Socialization Skills
- Relationships & Leadership
- Physical Fitness
- Health & Safety Mindset

Key Award Outcomes

- Problem Solving Skills
- Success at School
- Treat Others with Fairness
- Honesty & Trustworthiness
- Empathy
- Volunteerism



Award Leaders and Mentors:

Adults delivering the Award who will guide and support participants.

- Guidance and support | Providing feedback and encouragement | Support to overcome challenges

Award Culture for Participant Support:

Ensuring participants have the support, environment, and culture to thrive in the Award.

- School support | Engaged and supportive parents | Like-minded peers working alongside each other

Resources and Pedagogy:

Delivering a high-quality Award experience to every participant, regardless of background and level.

- The Award Canada Way | The Award Framework | Resources and support for participants to craft their own Award | Modern | Flexible Award pathways with an eye to the future

Progress and Development

Participants track their own progress, completing and advancing to the next level.

- Online Record Book to keep track of progress and logs | Three levels, Bronze Silver and Gold, increasing in challenge as participant's progress

Hear the impact of the Award from young people themselves!

Each year, we ask young people who complete an Award level to share their experiences and the personal impact of the Award. Their feedback consistently highlights the profound, positive changes they've undergone. From building confidence and resilience to developing leadership skills and a sense of community, our participants' stories are a testament to the life-changing benefits of the Award.

As a result of completing their Award...



85%
felt challenged



94%
feel they made new friends
since starting the Award.



92%
tried something new



87%
believe they can make a
difference in their community



75%
feel the Award helped
prepare them for the
next stage of their life



81%
said they would recommend
the Award to a friend

Building Confidence in 21st Century Skills...

Each section of the Award nurtures and helps young people build 21st century skills that employers and post-secondary institutions are seeking. These skills give our Award participants the edge when entering the workforce or the next level of their academic life.

Problem Solving Skills



89% were confident in their ability to **consider the pros and cons of different options** and deciding which one is best.

Interpersonal Skills



92% were confident in their ability to **consider others peoples perspective in a group.**

Socialization Skills



72% were confident in their ability to **speak or present in front of groups of people.**

Visit our website to join our Virtual Award Centre, find a local Award Centre near you, or contact your school to register for the Award.

JOIN THE AWARD TODAY

Contact Us:

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