

**Somerset DofE Gold Residential –  
Bath & West Show 2026  
Information and kit list**



## **Introduction**

Thank you for signing up/ enquiring about for our Gold Residential at the Bath & West Show.

This is the eighth time we have run a residential at the show and we are looking forward to it. The Bath & West Society is very pleased to have young people volunteering at the event and the link with DofE is especially welcome. A lot of people are interested in what we're doing so please expect to be noticed while we're there. The DofE Teamwork behind the scenes in a number of areas helping to support the show – giving you a great insight into how a county show is run.

## **Royal Bath and West Show**

The Royal Bath and West Residential is a 5-day residential held from 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026 at the Bath and West Showground near Shepton Mallet. (The show itself runs from 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> May)

## **Arrival**

Arrival time is between 11am and 12pm on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May. We need to set up the camping area and DofE stand and get straight on with tasks for the show, so please don't be late. Please enter using the Green Gate

There's a separate 'how to find us' sheet and lots more travel information on the Bath & West website – [www.bathandwest.com](http://www.bathandwest.com)

## **Departure**

Departure time is 3pm on 31<sup>st</sup> May, at the Green Gate for pickups / taxis etc

## **Cost**

The residential costs £250 per person

## **Payment**

Full payment is due at the time of booking to secure a place on the residential. 20 Places are offered on a first-come-first-served basis. Payment is made by card through a link that will be sent to you from SSE Outdoors. [Home - SSE Outdoors](#)

## **Accommodation**

Single / Multi-person tents will be provided, and we'll spend part of Wednesday pitching camp and setting up the area. You should bring the sleeping items in the kit list section below. Own tents are fine also.

The area we'll camp in is behind a row of trade stands and will not necessarily be secure. You will need to store all your kit in your tent, so we recommend you pack in a rucksack or soft bag that can be squished into a corner and bring a day bag to carry valuables with you.

We will have shelter to provide cover from the weather, which will no doubt be memorable. We can also lock valuables in the minibus to help, please talk to the two Kilve staff regarding this.

We will have a single electric supply which will have to support a mini fridge the kettle, everyone's mobile phone and any other equipment we need. Please don't bring big electric items unless you can afford lots of batteries.

Shower and toilet blocks are located close to our base.

There is onsite security patrolling day and night, but the show is open to the public, so safer to avoid taking valuables

## **Food**

We will provide breakfast that you can make yourself, then a packed lunch will be provided on show days, with vouchers for the evening meal each day which can be used at the on-site restaurant.

Water will be available (please bring a refillable bottle) and we'll have facilities to make drinks (tea, coffee, hot chocolate, squash, etc) in our area. We'll also keep a stock of fruit, chocolate, biscuits, and assorted munch in case you get peckish.

You don't need to bring additional food with you, although if you're a budding Star Baker and want to dazzle us with your brilliance, we won't say no!

We'll need to keep the area clean and tidy so please come prepared to do your share of the washing up and clearing up.

## **Footwear**

The showground is fairly flat and level, but it is mainly grass so will be affected by the weather; please think about this when deciding what to bring.

You will be stood up for long periods, will probably walk quite a distance and may be lifting and shifting equipment. Sturdy, comfortable shoes or trainers will therefore be required during the day (walking boots are ideal if you have them). There will probably be opportunities to get involved with sports activity, so if you have sports kit, please bring it.

Flip flops/slippers are good for 'down time' and in tents and the toilet/shower blocks.

## **Clothing**

We will provide you with DofE/B&W branded t-shirts to be worn during the public workdays.

During the residential you will be ambassadors for your school or college, the DofE, Somerset Council and yourselves. Clothing should therefore be practical and appropriate.

We will be working outside all day, whatever the weather, so clothing should be lightweight and covering if its sunny, waterproof if it's wet and warm if it's cold. Keep an eye on the weather forecast!

The Bath & West Show is a family event so please don't bring items of clothing that are see-through or have offensive slogans.

## **Money**

There will be plenty to spend money on at the show. If you know you're a big consumer of cheese, plants, garden furniture, hot tubs, household gifts, outdoor clothing, equestrian equipment or agricultural machinery, please plan accordingly.

Many stall holders accept cards and there's a cash machine on site (although it will charge for withdrawals) so we don't recommend carrying large amounts of cash.

## **Other items**

We will provide various entertainment items (football, Frisbee, playing cards, etc).

## **Activities**

We will ensure that you get involved in any fun activities – like the fairground and train when onsite.

## **Supervision**

There will be SSE Outdoors staff onsite to support you 24/7. You will be given their contact details on arrival

The DofE stand will be manned by volunteers at the show – these volunteers will also work with you when you are helping on the stand. We will also be promoting SSE Outdoors on the same stand.

## **What you will be doing**

The DofE volunteers are a valued part of the show, and the Bath and West Team invite us every year to help with the smooth set up and running of the show. You will get to see what happens before during and after a county show – as you arrive the day before it starts and leave the day after.

In 2026 the DofE team are likely to help at the Great British Kitchen. You will be working with the bands to set up equipment and ensure a smooth transition between acts on the Pilton Music stage. We might also support the Flower Art Marquee and Banner set up and taking down, before and after the show – as well as Steward Cover, Cow Watch and other ad hoc jobs when needed, as plans come together for the show, a final job list for DofE will be produced and shared with the group before arrival, so they know what lies with us.

We also have a DofE stand to manage and discuss the award with the public and run a fun competition. It is not hard work, but DofE are asked to help in all sorts of situations over the duration of the show, from queue management, to moving stands.

We may be asked to help in other areas also – as the DofE Team are valued at the show and they know we can turn our hands to any task as needed

You will all be onsite as a group together and normally young people travel from the length and breadth of the UK to attend. You will get to meet the show organisers and get an insight in to how complicated the show is to run. As DofE volunteers at the show – the management team know that you are pretty good at turning your hands to anything, and often call when many hands are needed to solve an issue.

## A Typical Day at the Bath and West (activities change year)

	AM	Midday	PM	Evening - Whole Group
<b>Wednesday</b>	Arrive and set up camp	Set up DofE Stand	Group banners	Team Games
<b>Thursday</b>	Great British Kitchen	Pilton Music Stand	DofE Stand	Fair Ground Visit
<b>Friday</b>	Banner Check	Cow Watch	Down Time to explore	Music Night
<b>Saturday</b>	Pilton Music Stand	Train Support	Sports Arena	Train Ride and Music Night
<b>Sunday</b>	Banner Removal	Team De Brief	Pack down and leave	

The Group will breakfast together and have an evening meal together every day. They will also be together for evening activities – there is so much to see and do onsite – that these could change, depending on group preference.

On day one the group stay together, getting to know each other, setting up camp and putting up show banners – trust us, by the end of the day you'll soon have made new friends, had a laugh and got to know the shows layout.

During the remaining days – the group will be split in to 3-4 groups, that move from role to role, supporting the show where it is needed. The groups change for each session, so you will mix with everyone all the time and every day.

In the Great British Kitchen, you'll get the chance to meet celebrity chefs and help with their shows, ensuring that the public enter in a timely fashion – then help the celebrities with what ever they need. On the Pilton Music stand, you'll see some amazing acts, help with any equipment needs and also tidy the area.

Anyone with an interest in animals, will love cow watch, spending time interacting with the public and watching the livestock at the show. And in the Sports Arena, you'll have fun drawing in the public for any planned activities that are on offer – we are sure you'll be sharing your skillset here too!

The DofE stand is busy and our base for the week – the group will meet there for breakfast, lunch, dinner and evening activities. We run a competition – from guess the weight of the rucksack to can you name the national landscapes – we share information about the award with the public and showcase what the award means for young people who participate. Our selfie board is a huge hit, and we love the pictures and competition element as to who can get the best one!

You will have down time everyday to re charge the batteries, grab a drink, catch up with the others. And there will be scheduled time off – where you can go in groups to visit the show and get to meet the stall holders, tasting the Somerset delights and have some fun. Meals are held as a group, giving you the chance to share stories of your day – see who got the best freebie and met the most famous celebrity!

Evenings are spent together, sharing stories, and doing group activities.

## **Kit list – please bring with you**

### **Accommodation**

Pillow  
Sleeping bag or duvet  
Roll mat

### **Utensils**

Non-breakable mug (a travel mug/insulated cup is ideal)  
Re-fillable water bottle  
Plate, Bowl, Knife, Fork, Spoon, - essential for breakfast!

### **Footwear**

Sturdy shoes or trainers  
Flip flops or slippers  
Trainers or casual shoes

### **Clothing**

Waterproof coat  
Waterproof trousers (if you have them and the forecast is for wet weather)  
Fleece or hoodie (more than one if forecast is cold)  
3 or 4 t-shirts/tops  
2 or 3 pairs of shorts/leggings/tracksuit bottoms (depending on weather forecast)  
Sleepwear  
Underwear  
Socks  
It gets chilly camping at night, so bring layers to keep warm

### **Other items**

Suntan lotion  
Sunglasses  
Hat  
Toiletries, wipes etc  
Sanitary products  
Towel (microfibre or easy dry preferred)  
Phone charger  
DofE number for assessor portal  
Spending money  
Day bag (small rucksack) for carrying valuable items, extra clothing etc  
Torch and batteries  
Camping Chair  
Tent – if you want to bring your own, not an issue or we can provide