

The Annington Challenge - selection criteria

Notes for the adult referee supporting the applicant

There are a number of criteria for the selection of suitable applicants, to ensure the spirit of the Annington Challenge is fulfilled. Applicants should:

- Be children whose parent(s) are serving in any of the Armed Forces and who live in Service communities
- Be between 14 years and 18 years at the start date of the course
- Be prepared to write a short report on their experiences
- Complete a short questionnaire on the application form demonstrating why they want to take part in the Annington Challenge and how they will benefit from it.
- Provide contact details of a suitable referee such as a Community Development Worker, teacher, parent/guardian or Commanding Officer.

Please note that the the Annington Trust will meet the costs of the course but requires a modest contribution of £50 from the applicant to be raised through fundraising activities. The applicant will also be responsible for funding their own travel to and from the centre.

An Outward Bound course offers young people an opportunity to take part in challenging activities whilst learning more about themselves and developing essential life skills. To get the most out of their course it is important that participants come to The Outward Bound Trust centre with an understanding of both the learning objectives of their course and the responsibilities of community living. Participants are accommodated in shared dormitory style-rooms and are required to take responsibility for their own living areas, including making their beds and tidying their rooms.

At the start of the course participants will be made aware of the issues of community living, The Outward Bound Trust's centre rules and the consequences of inappropriate actions. Young people under 16 are not allowed to smoke and those over 16 are actively discouraged and will find smoking restricted.

When considering potential applicants, please consider the degree to which an individual is likely to be benefit from a programme involving team working, leadership and communication skills. The following are some of the qualities to look for in young people:

- A positive attitude
- Willingness to work with others outside their social group
- Has qualities that would be useful as part of a team
- Needs a boost in confidence
- A high level of commitment
- Willingness to take on responsibility

- Underachieving at school
- Low or potentially no exam grades
- No idea of future career – possibly moving towards NEET (not in employment, education or training) after school
- Prefers practical, non-traditional teaching/learning methods
- Would benefit from the opportunity to open up their interest in learning
- Would benefit from an opportunity to meet other young people from a diverse range of backgrounds
- Would benefit from extra-curricular activities
- Would benefit from the chance to excel non-academically
- Able to influence others to adopt positive values
- Has potential to become a leader
- Little or no parental support

Serious Adventure Fact Sheet

Please ensure that the prospective applicant has an opportunity to go through the 8-day Outward Bound Serious Adventure fact sheet with you. This is especially important if the prospective applicant has literacy difficulties. The fact sheet is included in the Annington Challenge application form which can be found at: www.anningtontrust.org or on The Outward Bound Trust website: www.outwardbound.org.uk/images/pdf/individuals/fact-sheets/serious-adventure.pdf

The Outward Bound Trust works with a wide range of young people, but courses in this type of environment are not suitable for young people who:

- Are at risk of exclusion from school or are already excluded from school
- Have challenging educational or behavioural needs
- Are known to exhibit aggressive or antisocial behaviour
- Are engaged in or withdrawing from alcohol or drug abuse
- Are using the course as part of the criminal justice system
- Are under the supervision of the court or Youth Offending Service (YOS)

The Outward Bound Trust is not a respite care provider and it is inappropriate to send young people to an Outward Bound Trust centre if care workers are on leave.

To ensure the Outward Bound course matches the needs of all participants, please inform us in advance of applicants who:

- Are statemented
- Are subject to School Action or School Action Plus
- Have a Record of Needs or Learning Support

These would include young people who exhibit challenging behaviour and those who have:

- ADHD
- Autistic spectrum disorder
- Learning difficulties and disabilities
- Visual impairment
- Mobility impairment
- Hearing impairment
- Down's Syndrome

If you are uncertain of the suitability of the Annington Challenge for the young person you are considering acting as a referee for, please contact Sian Howe or Sara Renwick at The

Outward Bound Trust on **01931 740018** who will be able to discuss any specific requirements.

In addition, please share, in confidence, any concerns you might have, or in the case of professionals working with young people, the reasons for your involvement. In this way we can endeavour to make your young person's Outward Bound experience as rewarding as possible.

The Outward Bound Trust reserves the right to exclude or refuse any young person whose behaviour is not conducive to the successful and safe conduct of the course.