

VOLUNTEERING

If you choose to volunteer at home for a family member you must follow this guidance otherwise you will not be able to complete this section successfully.

Until Dec 2022 participants can volunteer for family members, for example by mentoring or coaching younger siblings.

This should be more than a participant babysitting, or helping out with their usual chores!

As with all DofE activities, they should be structured and help the participant to meet the benefits and outcomes of the Volunteering section. Participants can follow our 13-week guide for inspiration and to help plan their sessions.

Participants can choose to volunteer to help any family member. This could include:

- mentoring a younger sibling and helping them with their schoolwork or homework
- coaching a sibling or another family member to learn an instrument or develop another skill
- organising a sports session or arts and crafts session for someone they live with to participate in

Participants can plan their sessions using resources online, and record what they do using a programme planner and activity log.

If a participant wants to help another family member in a different way, then their DofE Leader will need to check it's suitable by ensuring it fulfils the aim of the section.

As with all DofE activities, to maintain the value and integrity of a young person's Award, an Assessor cannot be a family member. However, participants can find some useful information on finding an Assessor [here](#).

If a participant has chosen to volunteer for a family member and their section end date will be after 31 December 2022, it's at the Leader's discretion whether the participant should change their Volunteering section activity after that date. We suggest Leaders and participants consider whether the activity and goal will continue to deliver the intended outcomes of the section, as well as the impact of other factors, such as how long the participant has left to complete the section and which Award level they're doing. The decision should be clearly communicated in the Assessor's Report for the benefit of the Award Verifier.