



## **Cambridgeshire DofE Open Award Centre and the**

### **RAPTOR (Birds of Prey) FOUNDATION**

#### **Gold DofE Residential 2024**

**Sat 17<sup>th</sup> February to Weds 21<sup>st</sup> February OR**

**Sat 26<sup>th</sup> October to Weds 30<sup>th</sup> October**



**Cambridgeshire DofE Open Award Centre are pleased to offer an exciting and different residential opportunity to Gold Award Participants.**

- Would you like to learn how to care for and fly birds of prey (Raptors)?
- Would you like to help to repair aviaries, maintain the environment and look after the visitor site?
- Would you like to learn something about Raptor conservation and rehabilitation and help to support the work of this amazing charity?
- Are you interested in the care and conservation of animals?
- Would you like to complete a John Muir Award?

We have these activities and more in our 5-day itinerary.

Cambridgeshire DofE Open Award Centre and The Raptor Foundation <https://raptorfoundation.org.uk/> will work together to deliver our Raptor care and handling experience. We will stay in the grounds of the Raptor Foundation and hear the wonderful calls of the birds throughout our stay. Learning about a wide variety of Raptors and their care whilst also helping to restore some of the grounds and aviaries for a better visitor experience. The Raptor Foundation also care for a “mob” of meerkats and a “creep” of tortoises, as well as a pond with a “school” of fish.....Loving those collective nouns!!! A “kettle” of hawks, a “wake” of buzzards, you can of course use “flock”. 😊

All need careful care, handling and maintenance of their surroundings.

The Raptor Foundation are a member of BIAZA <https://biaza.org.uk/> (The British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums) All members are dedicated to achieving the highest standards of animal care and conserving the natural world through research, conservation and educating and inspiring their visitors.

This residential is suitable for anyone interested in caring for animals and their environments, or anyone applying or already accessing courses in animal care and handling, or anyone interested in animal or small zoo work, or animal care and conservation.

The location has very easy access from the A1 and A14 via Huntingdon, Cambs or via St Ives, Cambs

**When:** Sat 17<sup>th</sup> February to Weds 21<sup>st</sup> February **OR** Sat 26<sup>th</sup> October to Weds 30<sup>th</sup> October

**Where:** The Raptor Foundation, The Heath, St. Ives Rd, Woodhurst, Huntingdon. PE28 3BT

**Arrive:** 11:30 DAY 1      **Leave:** 15:00 DAY 5

**Cost:** £190 (EARLY BIRD price...reduced to £180 if booked by Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 2023)

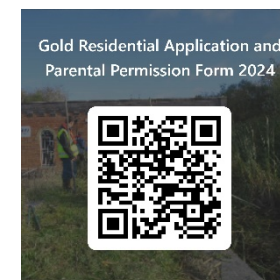
**What is included:** **ALL** meals, snacks and drinks from lunch on Day 1 to lunch on Day 5  
Hot and Cold breakfast every day, sandwich lunch and the home cooked campfire food every evening is sumptuous and filling! We promise you will not be hungry.  
Accommodation fees (Please bring your own tent)  
Use of all tools required  
Adult DofE Leadership support throughout  
A selection of Raptor/small zoo activities and environmental care provided by Raptor Foundation staff  
Completion of the John Muir Award. <https://www.johnmuirtrust.org/john-muir-award>

**Accommodation:** The course happens in February and in October. Both months can be cold. We ask all participants to bring a tent and camping equipment, so that they have privacy for changing and somewhere to store all their equipment. We have access to a large barn and a smaller room for participants to sleep in. Everyone will need an “off the ground” camp bed for this (example link on kit list below). Try to borrow from friends or family if you don't have your own. We regard this as an essential item to get a comfortable nights sleep. The campbed is in addition to the usual sleeping mat etc. Bring as many warm bedding items as you think you might need, nights can be cold. No need to carry anything anywhere, so bring enough items to be really really comfortable.

### **How to apply?**

Fill out the online application form via the link. <https://forms.office.com/e/3AH6YRpE2a>

You can also use the QR code to access the form.



Pay the fee by BACS, AND please send us the amount paid, date paid and payment reference on your application form

Please pay Cooperative Bank, 1 Balloon St, Manchester, M60 4EP  
 Amount £190 (or EARLY BIRD price £180 if paid by Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 2023)  
 Sort Code 08-92-99  
 Account Name Cambridgeshire DofE Open Award Centre  
 Account No 67215922  
 Quote Ref GOLDRES \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ (insert surname and initials)

We will send final joining details approx. 1 month prior to the course start date.  
 We have a maximum of 33 places available on each course.

**What should I bring:** Lots of energy and a smile! PLUS the following items.  
 You will get muddy and dirty so make sure you bring lots of old clothes.

<b>Personal clothing</b>	<b>Camping/sleeping equipment</b>	<b>Personal equipment</b>
Old trainers	Tent	Personal First aid kit
Wellington boots	Extra warm Sleeping bag(or bring 2)	Day Sack
Walking boots	Thick Sleeping mat(or bring 2)	Insect repellent
Waterproofs	Extra blankets	Handsan
Shirts	Pillow	Face flannel
Shorts	Torch + spare batteries	Small towel + toiletries
Underwear	Wristwatch	Small notebook + pencil
Trousers (not jeans)		Pack of cards/small game
Hat/scarf/warm gloves		Camera
Warm pyjamas		1 litre water bottle
Warm fleece fabric tops		Tea towel
Leather work gloves		Large Plate + large bowl
Gardening gloves		Mug
		Dishcloth/scourer
	Campbed eg <a href="https://www.amazon.co.uk/Hi-Gear-Slumber-Camp-Grey-Size/dp/B08GPVKBTG/ref=sr_1_5?crid=3V7ARUAIQMD92&amp;keywords=campbed&amp;qid=1698748795&amp;s=sports&amp;sprefix=%2Csports%2C279&amp;sr=1-5&amp;th=1&amp;psc=1">https://www.amazon.co.uk/Hi-Gear-Slumber-Camp-Grey-Size/dp/B08GPVKBTG/ref=sr_1_5?crid=3V7ARUAIQMD92&amp;keywords=campbed&amp;qid=1698748795&amp;s=sports&amp;sprefix=%2Csports%2C279&amp;sr=1-5&amp;th=1&amp;psc=1</a>	Knife fork spoon

## Raptor Foundation/DofE Gold Residential Project Programme

Check out the outline plan below. Tasks will be decided when we arrive and depend on the weather.

Day		AM		PM		Evening
1		Participants arrive 11:30am	Lunch	Set up camp Tour of the site Introduction to Raptor Foundation, project work choices and staff The John Muir Award.	Dinner	Get to know each other. Evening games
2	Breakfast	Raptor Activities/DIYwork	Lunch	Raptor Activities/DIYwork	Dinner	Nightline/Trust trail
3	Breakfast	Raptor Activities/DIYwork	Lunch	Raptor Activities/DIYwork	Dinner	Carving session
4	Breakfast	Raptor Activities/DIYwork	Lunch	Raptor Activities/DIYwork	Dinner	Oct – Pumpkin carving Feb – Whistle making /birdbox/batbox making
5	Breakfast	Raptor Activities/DIYwork	Lunch	Debrief and feedback Break camp and pack Feedback and review for The John Muir Award Participants depart 3pm		

Accommodation by camping/in the barn. There are toilet and shower facilities.

All mealtimes and evening activities are to be supported by DofE Staff

Daytime AM and PM Raptor project work to be supported by Raptor Foundation Staff.

### Possible Activities

Activities may vary depending on the weather and the season and will include a mixture of DIY centre improvement activities alongside the Animal welfare activities. The list is not exhaustive and activities may be added when we have confirmed the skills of the staff supporting your residential experience and the tasks which need to be completed at the time...and the weather!!

<b>ANIMAL BASED ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>DIY VISITOR CENTRE IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES</b>
Flying Raptors	Clearing paths for accessibility
Preparing food and Feeding Raptors	Chipping dry branch wood for laying new paths
Cleaning aviaries	Cutting back brush wood and pruning

Repairing Aviaries	Painting
Demolishing old aviaries/sheds	Building a Campsite washing up/water facility
Learning about Raptor conservation	Block paving repair and maintenance
Learning about the Raptor hospital	Building a wall
Owl pellet dissection	Raising a tree crown
Bat box/bird box/nest box building	Debark willow tree
Caring for Meerkats	Tree stump removal
Caring for reptiles	Preparing flower beds/gardens and borders
Cleaning the fish pond	Staining/preservative on fences and other woodwork

If you need more information please email [tracy.grant@cambridgeshiredofe.co.uk](mailto:tracy.grant@cambridgeshiredofe.co.uk)  
or call Tracy Grant on 07770222402

### **Some Feedback from our Oct 2023 participants**

- I had a great time.
- The food was good and I loved how much effort was put in regarding cooking the meals via the campfire
- It was a great experience
- The days were planned well
- I enjoyed meeting new people and trying new things.
- I got to do a lot of cool things
- I was pleasantly surprised by the consideration offered to those with dietary requirements, was all delicious and very well thought out.
- Very much appreciate all the staff for their support, time and effort throughout the residential.
- Everything was really good
- Just want to say thank you again for such an incredible experience!
- It was amazing!!
- All the staff were incredible thank you so much!