

The Congressional Award Record Book

Candidate: _____

Expedition/Exploration

Directions: Use this form and additional pages as needed to record your Expedition/Exploration answers for the questions below, as well as a complete description of your entire trip - from start to finish. This should include planning and training notes, your planned itinerary and a detailed day-by-day account of your actual activity. Remember, we can only review what is submitted. Be as detailed as possible about your experience and what you learned.

Describe the Following

- 1 How did YOU plan or prepare for this activity? Be as detailed as possible indicating YOUR initiative.**

Did you schedule and investigate your travel options? Did you research different venues or locations? Did you coordinate with anyone before your arrival? How did you make your trip or activity happen? If you worked with a group, how did you make this trip happen for you? How did you leave your mark?

- 2 How was this activity unique and unlike anything YOU have ever done before? How were YOU immersed in a different culture or environment?**

If you travel or camp a lot, how was this trip or activity different? How did you expand your horizons and learn about a unique culture or environment? How did this put you outside of your comfort zone? The Expedition/Exploration is about exploring a unique culture or environment - how did you accomplish this?

- 3 How were YOU challenged? Include examples of YOU thinking on YOUR feet.**

Before and during your trip, what obstacles did you encounter and how did you handle them? This activity, especially at the higher levels, is about you taking the initiative and rising to challenges that come up while exploring a unique environment. If you got lost on a foreign subway, did you wait for your parents to direct you or did you take the lead? If a venue was closed unexpectedly, did you make other plans or just go back to a hotel? Show us how your were able to adapt to the real world in a different environment or in planning for your trip. If you worked with a group, how did you show leadership in implementing your trip?

- 4 Include a detailed itinerary of what YOU plan to do.**

Detail your planned trip from start to finish. Make sure you can show at least 6-8 hours of immersion activities each day. Include where you are planning on going and why, how you plan to explore the unique culture or environment (through food, sightseeing, etc), how you are going to learn about this new environment. If using public transportation is a large component of your trip and write up, make sure to include your overall plan and method for using it.

- 5 Include a detailed write up of YOUR actual trip (a day-to-day account). This should include examples of the above and should detail YOUR trip from start to finish (including travel).**

Tell us what you did! This should be the most detailed portion of your write up, including how your plans came to fruition. Include details about what you learned, what you saw, what you took in. Did all of your plans go smoothly or were there bumps along the road? How did you handle any hiccups? How did you explore the environment or culture for at least 6-8 hours? Show us what you did - reflect on this experience! This should not read like a class assignment or paper - we care about where you want but want to see from you what you learned through real world immersion.

- 6 Please include anything else you think would highlight YOUR accomplishments on your trip.**
What did you take away from your trip? Are you now maybe planning on returning to the location for future adventures or experiences? Did you maybe learn you could do something that you never would have expected? Did you try a food for the first time and now can't get enough? Did you communicate in languages and now you want to learn more? Did you learn a new camping skill that you will employ next time?

Gold Medal Record Books require detailed explanations of your planning and your actual trip. If you are planning on submitting an Expedition/Exploration that was approved at a lower level for the Gold Medal Level, be as detailed as possible at your first submission. The higher levels of the Award require a high degree of challenge and immersion. We can only review what you submit, so be as detailed as possible from the start.