

## INTERNATIONAL AWARD HANDBOOK NEW ZEALAND SPECIFIC ADDITION TO ADVENTUROUS JOURNEY SECTION

### Supervision of Adventurous Journey Groups

Because of the challenging nature of New Zealand conditions in the outdoors, we have a tighter approach to group supervision than is indicated in the Handbook, which on page 89, section 8.9.3 says:

***“The Supervisor should make contact with the group at least once each day.”***

Due to the different nature of the terrain in NZ compared to, for example, the United Kingdom and due to the lack of cell phone coverage in the New Zealand bush, usually the only way to have any contact with a group is to follow them down their chosen route with a **‘Shadow Party’**.

As a result, the Duke of Edinburgh’s Hillary Award defines supervision of Adventurous Journey groups as follows:

*All Adventurous Journey groups must be supervised by a suitable adult shadow party (determined by the Safety Management System your school, outdoor education centre or other approved agency has in place) at all Award Levels for both Practice and Qualifying Journeys.*

*The Shadow Party are there to ensure the safety of the group in all circumstances. The Shadow Party must have sufficient contact with the group to be able to interpret and circumvent any dangerous or potentially dangerous actions or behaviour and to be able to determine the functionality of the group and its competence during the journey.*

*The actual distance will vary according to the weather and terrain, but as a guideline you should be able to hail the group if (for example) they are about to attempt to cross a swollen river or similar hazard and you want them to stop. In practice this may vary between 1 metre – 100 metres on the understanding the maximum distance is determined to be safe for any given set of conditions. You may use a different system but the outcome should be ‘all practicable steps’ are taken to ensure the safety of the group.*

*As with all Safety Management Issues, it is imperative that you understand your organisation’s Safety Management Systems around group control and safety and do not supersede your own processes with our advice without taking ownership of that part of your Safety Management System.*

*Remember, the main priority of the Shadow Party is to ensure that everyone returns safely, this should come before any Duke of Edinburgh’s Hillary Award requirements or processes.*