

THE YOUNG EXPLORERS' TRUST

Registered Charity No. 1006211 Company Limited by Guarantee No. 2658616



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

<p><i>Why should I apply for Evaluation?</i></p>	<p>The YET Evaluation Service offers an Expedition Provider an opportunity to have expedition plans assessed by an independent, third party organization with a panel composed of experts drawn from the youth expedition community.</p> <p>YET approval gives the Provider the opportunity to demonstrate conformity to British Standard 8848, an important and national standard of safety and quality. The YET “approval” process evaluates whether the organisation, management and individual expedition plans conform to the current version of BS 8848.</p>
<p><i>What is BS 8848?</i></p>	<p>The British Standards Institution is recognized by the UK Government as the National Body that establishes Standards for a range of products and services. BS 8848 is one of these standards, it was developed in 2007 and an amended version was published in 2009.</p> <p>BS 8848, named after the height in metres of Mount Everest, pulls together expertise and good practice into a new national standard for the safe and responsible management of overseas ventures. It provides a specification for organizing and managing visits, fieldwork, expeditions, and adventurous activities, outside the United Kingdom.</p> <p>Potential participants and other stakeholders, such as parents, local education authorities, and school governors, are likely to have greater confidence in those ventures assessed by an independent organization such as YET rather than just by the one providing the venture.</p> <p><i>Note: The whole YET Evaluation process is based on BS 8848 and so there are no longer separate categories for YET Approval and BS 8848 compliance.</i></p>
<p><i>Where else can I learn about the nature of BS 8848?</i></p>	<p>BSI has published a useful “Parents’ guide to adventurous activities abroad for young people”. The guide describes the purpose and content of the standard in some detail. It helps to place the YET Evaluations scheme in its proper context as an independent and objective means of addressing and being satisfied that a particular expedition is being undertaken following good practice.</p> <p>The guide may be downloaded freely from the YET web site.</p>

Are there are different levels of Evaluation?	YET offers the opportunity to have expedition plans evaluated either as an <u>individual</u> expedition, or on a <u>corporate</u> basis covering all expeditions by a single provider.
How is a single expedition evaluated?	The service is designed for anybody, or a small organization planning a one-off, or a few, expeditions to have the plans for each venture individually assessed against the standard's requirements.
What is corporate evaluation?	<p>Any organization, commercial or non-commercial, that runs multiple expeditions can be evaluated by having the corporate management and administrative system responsible for creating and operating the ventures tested against the specification of BS 8848. In addition an audit sample of ventures, chosen at random, is subjected to detailed scrutiny comparable to that employed to evaluate individual expeditions.</p> <p>This, if successful, leads to a declaration by YET that, based on the evidence presented, all expeditions by that provider conform with BS 8848. This implies that all that Provider's expeditions will be internally self-assessed to demonstrate full conformity with BS 8848.</p>
Is the purpose of YET Evaluation to impose regulations?	No, the Evaluation is entirely voluntary and YET cannot impose conditions on any expedition. It is about enablement, not restriction or control. Many find the suggestions and advice given by the Panel very helpful in developing the expedition plans by raising the level of safety and the overall quality.
The Application Form seems very long and off-putting	<p>Think of it as a check list which will help applicants make sure that they have covered the important aspects of planning their expedition.</p> <p>It is actually quite easy to go through and provide rapid answers. It is based on the requirements of BS 8848 and so provides coverage of plans to the national standard.</p>
Do I have to pay for the Evaluation?	<p>Yes, there is a fee for the evaluation service. Whilst this is a professional service YET is a charity and the charges are scaled accordingly.</p> <p>The current structure of fees is shown on the YET web-site.</p>
How do I get the forms and other information?	<p>Application forms, details of how to apply and guidance notes are all freely downloadable from the YET web-site.</p> <p>In addition contact information is given for the Evaluations Co-ordinator who will personally talk through problems and difficulties and make all the necessary arrangements for an Evaluation meeting between an applicant and a Panel.</p>
What if I feel my venture is not able to pass the evaluation process?	If you are worried that your expedition may not pass the requirements of the standard, YET may be able to offer an independent mentoring service to assist you to develop your plans in an appropriate way to achieve this. Contact the Evaluations Co-ordinator for information.

<p>What is the purpose of the Evaluation Panel Meeting?</p>	<p>The Evaluation meeting is for the Provider to offer additional evidence and to answer questions that the Panel may have arising from the application and information submitted.</p>
<p>Where are the Evaluation Meetings held?</p>	<p>YET provides information on its web site. For anyone intending to undergo an individual expedition evaluation, it is best to contact the Evaluations Co-ordinator early on the process of developing the venture plans so that a suitable date and location for the interview can be arranged. YET encourages providers to make early contact to help minimize costs and the problems of assembling a suitable Panel.</p> <p>For Corporate Evaluation of an Expedition Provider, the Evaluations Co-ordinator will arrange a mutually convenient date for a Panel to visit the Provider's headquarters. The Panel may also elect to visit a UK training session in the field.</p>
<p>Who are the Panel members?</p>	<p>The Panel is formed of a chairman a secretary, who is normally the Evaluations Co-ordinator, and one or two other experienced and trained members who will have considerable expedition leadership and management experience; making a panel of 3 or 4 members. All items discussed are regarded as confidential to that evaluation.</p> <p>All panel members undertake not to use information obtained in the course of evaluations for their own gain or the gain of other organisations, with which they are linked, and to respect the commercial interests of the organisations under evaluation.</p>
<p>Who should attend an Evaluation Panel meeting?</p>	<p>The meeting normally requires the Venture Leader to attend, and possibly others involved in the planning and management of the expedition. Much depends upon the form of evaluation being undertaken. In some cases young participants attend but they normally need the support and guidance of an adult involved in the planning of the expedition. These matters can be discussed with the Evaluations Co-ordinator beforehand.</p>
<p>Can I ask questions before and after the evaluation meeting?</p>	<p>Yes, YET encourages Providers to seek assistance before the meeting and has an established mentoring system for those who want such support. Equally after an evaluation meeting, once the findings of the Panel have been sent to a provider the Evaluations Co-ordinator will help with any questions which may arise.</p>
<p>Will YET require me to change my plans (e.g. take sat phones)?</p>	<p>YET cannot impose demands on a provider. It will however make suggestions and if necessary recommendations. If YET believes that failure to meet these recommendations ignores current good practice as required by BS 8848, it may decline to grant "approval".</p>
<p>Will YET recommend particular suppliers (e.g. of vehicles, food, mules)?</p>	<p>The YET Evaluation process centres around "what has to be done" in the planning of a good expedition. It does not tell a provider "how it must or should be done". YET is in a position to offer valuable advice and support and to exchange information through its national network of contacts in the expedition fraternity. YET does not recommend specific suppliers.</p>

<p><i>What are the possible outcomes - pass/fail?</i></p>	<p>This is not a pass or fail situation but a way of developing expedition plans to better enable a safe and high quality expedition experience to be delivered.</p> <p>Through mentoring, advice and the guidance YET can give, most applications are successful. YET however cannot award “approval” if it believes the required safety & quality standards have not been met. Whilst the Evaluation Panel is an impartial body it will helpfully list recommendations for improvement.</p>
<p><i>Is it possible to appeal against the decision of the Panel?</i></p>	<p>Yes, YET has an appeal procedure that is detailed in the information on the YET web site. Most issues are however resolved in a less formal way through discussion, advice and support long before they get to this impasse.</p>
<p><i>What are the chances of getting a YET grant for my expedition?</i></p>	<p>Only expeditions going through the YET Evaluation procedure successfully will be considered for Grant Aid. A number of small financial awards are made each year through the Trust's Grant Aid procedure to expeditions and individuals who show particular merit. This is a decision independent of the Evaluation Panel.</p>
<p><i>Will the result help me to get other sponsorship?</i></p>	<p>YET cannot guarantee that any expedition submitting plans for evaluation will attract other sponsorship. BUT if an expedition provider has been willing to undergo the external scrutiny and the robustness of the YET Evaluation scheme then it almost certainly will stand a better chance of attracting sponsorship than an expedition that has not had such independent, third party evaluation.</p>