جائزة الشيخ سلطان لطاقات الشباب

SHEIKH SULTAN AWARD FOR CELEBRATING THE SPIRIT OF YOUTH

Award Manual

Participants and Coordinators



English Language Version

2026

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Introduction

The **Sheikh Sultan Award for Celebrating the Spirit of Youth** is the first of its kind in the region. It aims to celebrate the talents and skills of young people in the UAE by challenging youth to enhance and improve their skills in fields other than academics.

This will ensure that they excel in multiple disciplines such as: Adventure, Volunteering, Skills, and Fitness & Wellbeing. The award is open to all nationalities in the UAE between the ages of 13 – 18.

Vision

Youth who can challenge themselves to recognise and embrace their potential.

Mission

To recognise youth for their ability to overcome challenges

Our Ethos

The focus of the Sheikh Sultan Award is on participants' personal growth through category **activities**. The award is designed to complement academic accomplishments with practical and real-life experiences that help personal and social development.

The purpose of the award is to engage participants in experiences that will make a significant difference to their lives, the lives of others, or the environment.

The Sheikh Sultan Award aims to build self-esteem, self-confidence and autonomy. For many participants, their award experiences are profound, life-changing and, most of all, fun.



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Introduction

Values

The following four values underpin the principles, beliefs and attitudes of both the Sheikh Sultan Award as an entity and all stakeholders, including award participants.



Resilience

“We grow through challenges”

At the heart of the award is the belief that growth comes from perseverance. Resilience is demonstrated when participants step outside their comfort zones, whether through an adventure in nature, sustained fitness efforts, or overcoming obstacles in volunteering or skill development.

We value the courage to keep going when things get hard, the strength to learn from failure, and the mindset that each setback is a setup for personal growth.



Community

“We help others as we grow”

The award is a reminder that personal development and community service are deeply connected. Through volunteering and group experiences, participants learn the importance of collective effort and social responsibility.

We value empathy, collaboration, and kindness. The award empowers young people to make meaningful contributions to the people, animals, and environment around them, fostering a spirit of unity and care that transcends backgrounds and beliefs.



Discovery

“We embrace learning and new possibilities”

The award encourages youth to be curious, adventurous, and open to the unknown. Whether developing a new skill, trying a new sport, or embarking on a multi-day adventure, participants are invited to explore new ideas, cultures, and perspectives.

We value the joy of learning, the excitement of challenge, and the thrill of self-discovery. The award is not just about reaching a goal, it’s about uncovering hidden talents, passions, and potential along the way.



Integrity

“We act with honesty and purpose”

Every participant is expected to approach their journey truthfully; completing activities authentically, reporting hours accurately, and living by a personal code of ethics. Integrity is about doing the right thing even when no one is watching. It is reflected in the way participants represent their achievements, treat others, and carry themselves throughout the award cycle.

We are committed to nurturing youth who lead with sincerity, fairness, and trustworthiness.

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Introduction

Participant Outcomes

The Sheikh Sultan Award empowers youth to grow beyond academics by embracing real-world challenges, meaningful service, and self-discovery. Guided by our core values, participants should gain the following outcomes:



Resilience

1 **Personal Resilience**

Participants persevere through challenges, adapt to new environments, and build confidence from both success and setbacks.

2 **Physical and Mental Wellbeing**

By engaging in regular physical activity, participants develop healthy habits, discipline, and greater awareness of their own wellbeing.



Community

3 **Community Contribution**

Participants learn empathy and collaboration through service and volunteering, while making a positive impact on people, animals or the environment in their community.

4 **Leadership and Teamwork Skills**

Participants gain skills in problem-solving, collaboration, and collective achievement through group activities and shared challenges.



Discovery

5 **Talents, Passions and Potential**

Award participants can try new skills, sports, and experiences to uncover hidden abilities and embrace continuous learning. This helps improve their levels of independence and self-esteem.



Integrity

6 **Sense of Responsibility**

Participants should demonstrate honesty in recording achievements, fairness in working with others, and accountability for actions throughout the award journey.

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Overview of the Award

Award Medals

The Sheikh Sultan Award is structured so that participants can decide their entry point to the award. There are three levels of the award programme participants can complete in: Bronze, Silver or Gold.

Medals are differentiated by the required activity categories and the minimum length of time it takes to complete them. It is not essential to complete the medals in consecutive order.

Category Requirements

		Adventure	Volunteering	Skills	Fitness & Wellbeing
Bronze		3 Days & 2 Nights	20 Hours	N/A	
Silver		4 Days & 3 Nights	30 Hours	30 Hours **or** 30 Hours	
Gold		5 Days & 4 Nights	40 Hours	40 Hours	40 Hours

Participant Requirements

- All participants must be UAE residents or citizens aged 13-18 at the time of cycle opening (1st September of each year).
- Participants can use category activities completed in the previous two years from the closing date of the cycle (1st May of each year) for submission to the award.
- Participants can apply in consecutive years by participating in any higher medal than the one they have achieved (category activities cannot be used twice).
- Those who won the Gold medal can participate again in the Gold medal only after two cycles.

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Overview of the Award

Award Categories

Adventure

A multi-day experience that is designed to challenge participants out of their comfort zone. Participants are required to sleep in a tent and complete at least one physical challenge per day.



Volunteering

Participants giving their time to make a difference in the world. It is any activity that benefits people, the community, the environment or animals. It is an act of helping a greater cause without being paid.



Skills

Participants invest time in enhancing existing skills or starting a new activity that involves creative and critical thinking. This category requires participants to choose a skill that they would like to learn and develop.



Fitness & Wellbeing

Participants are physically active in a sport or fitness activity. Participants can choose an activity that they can complete alone or with a group of peers.



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Award Categories
Adventure

Participants are required to undertake an overnight adventure that includes camping in a natural location with physical challenges during the day. The duration of the adventure varies depending on the medal.

Criteria:

- The adventure should be done under the supervision of an approved organisation and participants obtain a signed and stamped certificate from a UAE-based provider *(see Page 7: Evidence Criteria)*
- Participants are required to sleep in a tent outdoors
- All nights of each camp must be completed consecutively, *e.g. a Gold-level adventure camp cannot be divided into two excursions*
- At least one physical challenge is required per day

Considerations:

- Cooking and bringing their own food for each participant during the camp is optional and not mandatory
- Other category activities can be completed during the adventure camp if desired. e.g., participants can complete part of their required volunteering hours during a 2-night bronze adventure camp
- Adventure camps can be completed internationally but must be provided by a UAE-based organisation/business (see additional information section)



Sheikh Sultan Award participants actively involved in the Adventure Category

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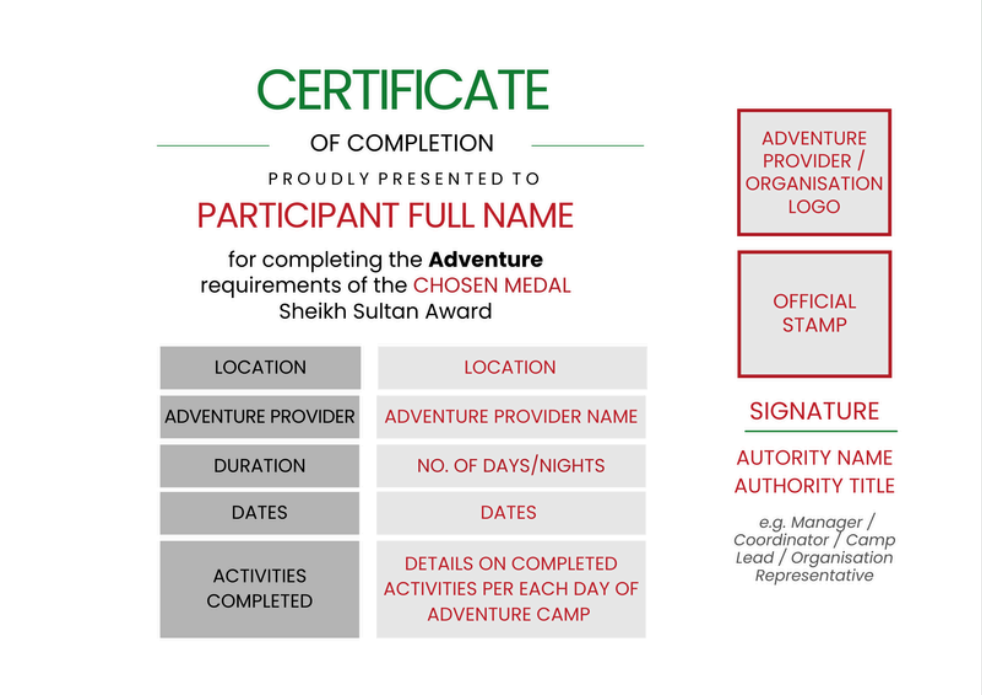
Award Categories
Adventure

Certificate Criteria:

- Participant's full name
- Location, duration (days/nights) and dates of the adventure camp
- Details of each activity completed per day of adventure camp
- Name, stamp and logo of the adventure provider based in the UAE
- Signature, name and contact details of the adventure provider manager or director *(may be contacted for more information during the evaluation phase)*
- Any other activities/training completed during the camp *(if applicable)*



This sample template certificate illustrates the essential elements and mandatory requirements that must be included by the Adventure provider

For a list of Adventure Providers you may consider for your camps, please contact the Sheikh Sultan Award at info@sheikhsultanaward.ae

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Award Categories

Volunteering

Volunteering involves participants choosing to give their time to make a difference in the world. It is any activity that benefits people, the community, the environment or animals. It is the act of helping a greater cause without getting paid.

Criteria:

- The volunteering activity should be done under the supervision of an accredited organisation or registered charity.
- Participants must obtain a signed and stamped certificate or letter from a UAE-based provider (see Certificate / Letter of Evidence Criteria page)
- Volunteering hours do not have to be consecutive and can be in more than one area.
- Volunteering to organise events should directly benefit the community, the environment or animals.

Activity Suggestions:

Community

- Charity school building
- Community garden
- Cyber safety
- Food distribution
- Helping people with disabilities
- Helping the elderly
- Library reading project
- Mentoring
- Music coaching
- Organising an educational workshop
- Road safety
- Sports coaching
- Tutoring
- Visiting an orphanage

Animals or Environment

- Animal welfare
- Conservation work (beach, urban, rural)
- Helping in medical services
- Litter picking
- Recycling
- Vegetation planting
- Working at an animal rescue centre
- Zoo/nature reserve work

Assisting a Charity Organisation*

- Helping with administration
- Being a volunteer for a registered charity
- Fundraising
- Organising a charity event
- Raising awareness
- Working in a charity shop

Appropriate acitivities could include but are not limited to the suggestions provided in this list

**Please ensure this is completed within a UAE registered charity*



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Award Categories

Volunteering

Certificate / Letter of Evidence Criteria:

- Participant's full name
- Number of completed hours, dates/date range and location of the volunteering activities
- Volunteering project, completed tasks and participant's role within the project
- Stamp and logo of the volunteer provider based in the UAE
- Signature, name and contact details of the volunteer provider manager, supervisor or director *(may be contacted for more information during the evaluation phase)*
- All details can be written in either Arabic or English language



This sample template letter illustrates the essential elements and mandatory requirements that must be included by the Volunteering provider



This sample template certificate illustrates the essential elements and mandatory requirements that must be included by the Volunteering provider

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Award Categories

Skill

Participants invest time in enhancing existing skills or starting a new activity that involves creative and critical thinking. This category requires participants to choose a skill that they would like to learn and develop.

Criteria:

- All required hours must be completed in one specific skill
- Participants can choose to develop an existing skill or learn a new skill
- There are two ways to apply for this category:
  - Learn the skill under the supervision of an accredited organisation and obtain a signed and stamped certificate or letter *(see Page 11: Evidence Criteria)*
  - Acquire the skill through self-learning and documenting the process of acquiring it in a 5-10 minute video and passing an interview with the award committee* *(see Page 12: Video Evidence Criteria). Please note that not all skills may be suitable for this method.*

**Interview is only required if video is selected as part of the routine auditing process*

Activity Suggestions:

Creative Arts

- Basket making
- Boat building
- Calligraphy
- Candle-making
- Crocheting
- Drawing
- Embroidery
- Floral decoration
- Furniture building
- Glass blowing
- Jewelry making
- Knitting
- Leatherwork
- Model construction
- Painting
- Photography
- Pottery / Mosaic
- Rope work
- Rug making
- Textiles
- Theatre makeup
- Weaving *
- Al Khous *
- Al-Sadu *
- Henna painting *
- Traditional Pottery *
- Woodwork / engraving *
- Talli *

Performance Arts

- Ballet
- Circus skills
- Public Speaking
- Puppetry
- Recitation
- Speech & Drama
- Theatre
- Al-Azi / Wanna *
- Al-Razfa /Al Ayala *
- Yolla *

Music

- Composing
- DJing
- Playing a musical instrument
- Reading & notating music
- Singing

Life Skills

- Agriculture
- Baking
- Car/bike maintenance
- Cooking
- Debating
- DIY Skills
- First Aid
- Gardening
- Navigation / Orienteering

Media

- Learning a new language
- Radio presenting
- Sign Language
- Video editing
- Writing

Dance

- Ballet
- Ballroom
- Folk dancing
- Jazz
- Salsa / Latin
- Breakdancing
- Swing
- Tap dancing
- Traditional / Folk Dance *

Logic & Strategy

- Chess
- Draughts
- Mental Calculation
- Speed reading
- Spelling Bee

STEAM

- Aerodynamics
- App design
- Astronomy
- Coding/ programming
- Engineering
- Marine biology
- Oceanography
- Palaeontology
- Robotics
- Rocket making
- Taxonomy
- Meteorology
- Website design
- Zoology



**Promoting Emirati identity through traditional skills, customs, and heritage, in alignment with the UAE's national agenda*

Appropriate activities could include but are not limited to the suggestions provided in this list

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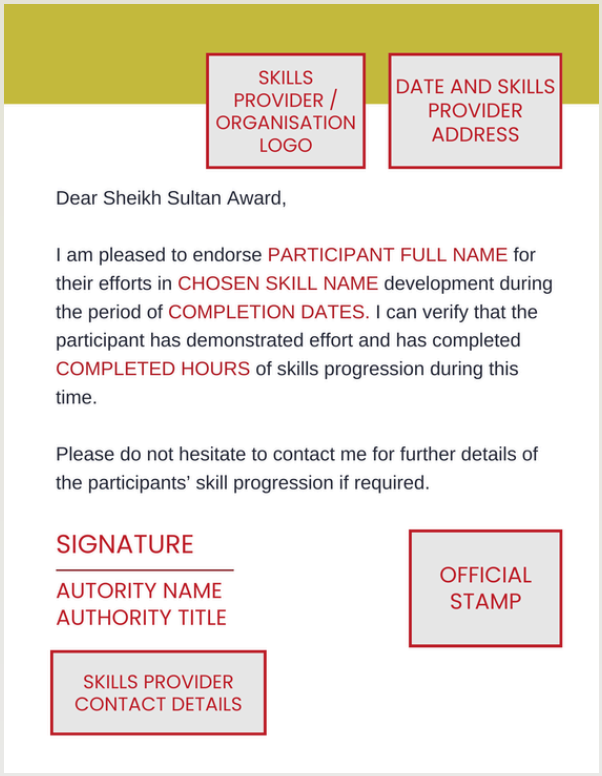
Award Categories

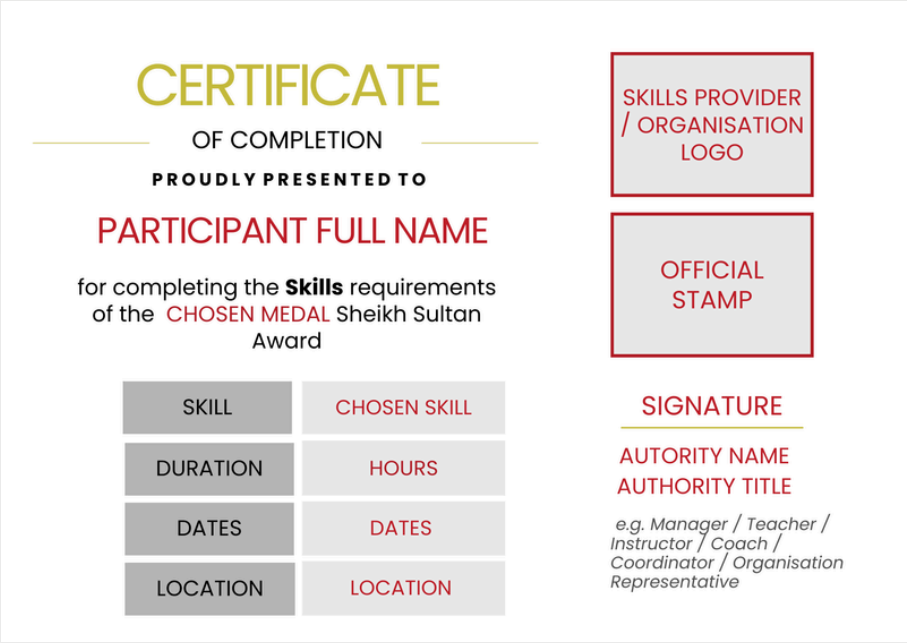
Skill

Certificate / Letter of Evidence Criteria:

- Participant's full name
- Name of the specific skill *(skill progression must be shown in one specific area)*
- Location, duration (hours) and dates/date range of the skills activities/lessons
- Stamp and logo of the skills provider based in the UAE
- Signature, name and contact details of the skills provider teacher, coach or director *(may be contacted for more information during the evaluation phase)*
- All details can be written in either Arabic or English language



This sample template letter illustrates the essential elements and mandatory requirements that must be included by the Skills provider



This sample template certificate illustrates the essential elements and mandatory requirements that must be included by the Skills provider

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Award Categories

Skill

Progression Video Criteria:

- Participants must state their full name at the beginning of the video and introduce the specific chosen skill
- Participant must be clearly visible and present in either Arabic or English language
- Participants must explain their level of expertise at the start *(e.g. beginner, intermediate or advanced)* and intended learning goals
- Participants must explain their method of learning the skill *(e.g. self self-taught, coached, formal lessons, app, online, etc.)*
- Participants must explain or display the outcomes of the skills progression
- Video should be 5-10 minutes long and submitted as one video file *(multiple clips can be edited together to show progression over time)*
- Location, durations (hours), and dates/date range of the skills activities/lessons must be displayed or explicitly mentioned
- The use of artificial intelligence (AI) will not be accepted

Considerations:

- If selected as part of the routine application audit, the participant may have to pass an interview with the award evaluation committee to verify their progression and knowledge of the chosen skill
- Photos can be embedded into the video if this helps demonstrate progression
- Screenshots or certificates generated from an online platform or application can be added to the video to provide evidence of skills progression (if applicable)

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Award Categories

Fitness & Wellbeing

Participants are physically active in a sport or fitness activity. Participants can choose an activity that they can complete alone or with a group of peers.

Criteria:

- All required hours must be completed in one fitness/wellbeing activity only.
- Learning the sport under the supervision of a recognised organisation and obtaining a signed and stamped certificate or letter with the number of hours completed *(see Page 14: Evidence Criteria)*

Activity Suggestions:

Racquet Sports

- Badminton
- Racquetball
- Paddle
- Tennis
- Rackets
- Rapid ball
- Squash
- Table tennis
- Tennis

Martial Arrts

- Ju Jitsu
- Judo
- Karate
- MMA
- Self-defence
- Tae Kwon Do
- Tai Chi

Team Sports

- Baseball
- Basketball
- Cheerleading
- Cricket
- Dodgeball
- Football and regional variants
- Futsal
- Handball
- Hockey
- Hurling
- Ice hockey
- Lacrosse
- Netball
- Polo
- Roller derby
- Rugby
- Softball
- Volleyball
- Water polo

Individual Sports

- Archery *
- Athletics
- Triathlon
- Boxing
- Cross country
- Cycling
- Falconry *
- Fencing
- Geocaching
- Golf
- Gymnastics
- Horse riding *
- Motocross
- Roller blading
- Roller skating
- Wrestling

Water Sports

- Canoeing
- Diving
- Boat Racing *
- Free-diving *
- Kite surfing
- Kneeboarding
- Rowing
- Sailing
- SCUBA diving
- Snorkelling
- Surfing
- Swimming
- Wakeboarding
- Windsurfing

Extreme Sports

- BMX
- Climbing
- Parkour
- Ice skating
- Mountain biking
- Skateboarding
- Skydiving
- Skiing
- Snowboarding
- Speed skating

Fitness

- Aerobics
- Fitness classes
- Gym work *in a specific area*
- Hiking
- Pilates
- Jogging
- Running
- Weightlifting
- Wii-fit
- Yoga

** The Award encourages promoting Emirati identity through traditional sports and heritage practices, in alignment with the UAE's national agenda*

Appropriate activities could include but are not limited to the suggestions provided in this list



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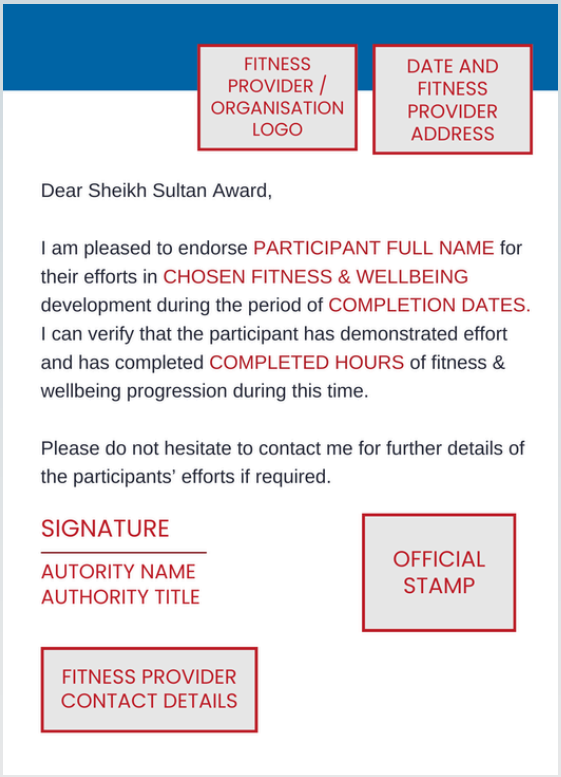
Award Categories

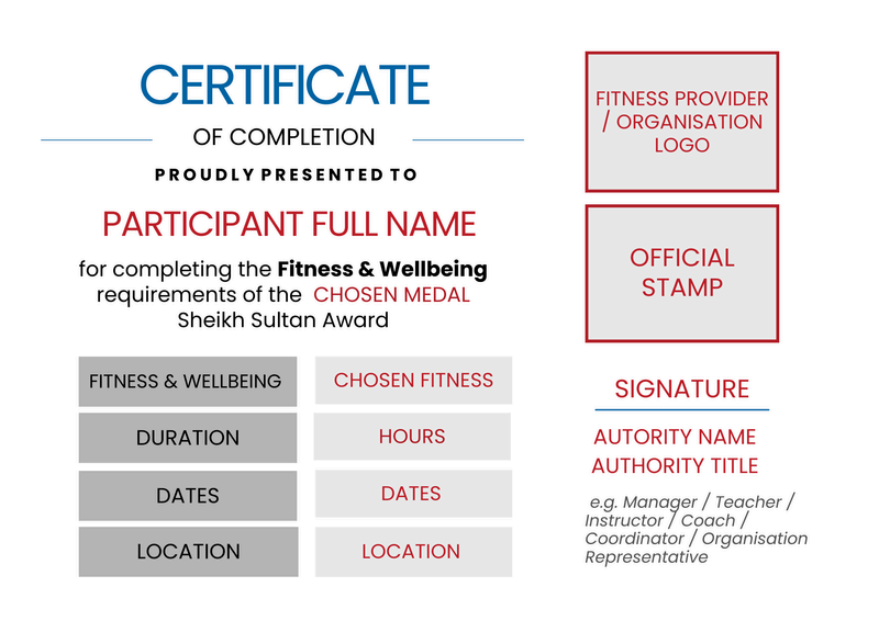
Fitness & Wellbeing

Certificate / Letter of Evidence Criteria:

- Participant's full name
- Name of the specific fitness/wellbeing activity *(progression must be shown in one specific area)*
- Location, duration (hours) and dates/date range of the fitness/wellbeing activities
- Stamp and logo of the fitness/wellbeing provider based in the UAE
- Signature, name and contact details of the fitness/wellbeing provider coach, supervisor or director *(may be contacted for more information during the evaluation phase)*
- All details can be written in either Arabic or English language



This sample template letter illustrates the essential elements and mandatory requirements that must be included by the Fitness & Welllbeing provider



This sample template certificate illustrates the essential elements and mandatory requirements that must be included by the Fitness & Wellbeing provider

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Award Journey

Cycle Timeline

Successful completion of the Sheikh Sultan Award involves careful planning of category activities, participants and coordinators are encouraged to use the suggested timeline below.

Key Dates

1st Sept — Cycle opens

1st May — Submission Deadline

Suggested Award Journey

Sept - Oct

1st September: participants register their interest and plan / start their award activities

Feb - Mar

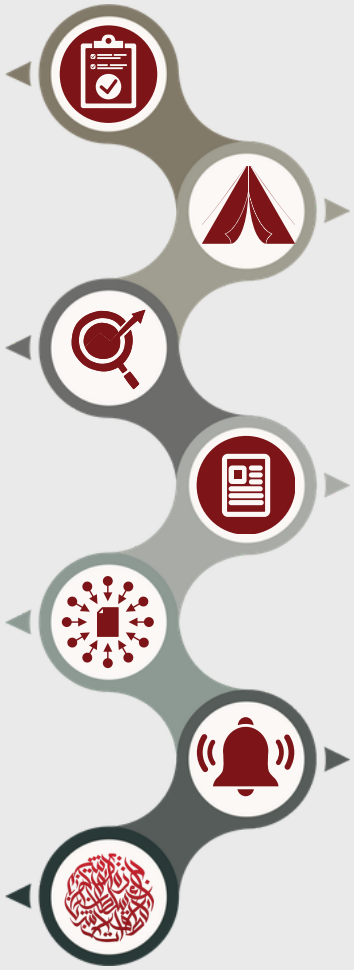
Participants continue award category activities

May

1st May: FInal deadline for all entry submissions

Nov - Dec

Successful participants are invited to award ceremony



Nov - Jan

Due to weather conditions, this is the advised time to complete the adventure category

Apr

Participants start to finalise activities and collate evidence

Aug

Successful participants are notified of their successful completion of the award

Please note: Participants can use activities completed in the previous 24 months (from the closing date of the cycle) for submission to the award.

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Registration Process

Participants should register their involvement with the award at the beginning of the award cycle (academic year). This will ensure that participants receive regular updates and communication from the Sheikh Sultan Award team.

Participants have two options of registration:

Coordinator based registration

Completing the award through a recognised school/organisation

Or

Individual registration

Completed independently by the participant online

Coordinator Based Registration

The following organisations may offer the Sheikh Sultan Award via a coordinator-based registration process:

- Educational Institutions (Government and Private Schools, Universities)
- Youth & Sports Organisations (youth clubs, sports clubs, scouting groups)
- Government Entities
- Community Organisations (social and cultural groups, NGOs)

These organisations may advertise activities that contribute to the category requirements of the award; however, they cannot guarantee final approval of participants' applications.



Coordinators can check that specific activities meet the needs of the award by using this manual or contacting the Sheikh Sultan Award via email at info@sheikhsultanaward.ae

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Completing the Award

To successfully meet the requirements, participants must:

1. Complete the minimum number of award activities across their medal-specific categories.
2. Collect evidence of using the chosen category requirements.
3. Finalise and submit the application by the cycle deadline:
   - ***Individual Application:*** Participants upload all necessary files online through the Award website
   - ***Coordinator-based Application:*** coordinators, collect evidence, verify that every file is complete, ensuring it meets the requirements, and submit using the bulk registration process (outlined during coordinators' training)

Please note: *non-compliant submissions cannot be processed.*

Participant Expectations

Participants will begin their Sheikh Sultan Award journey at the start of the academic year (Award Cycle) with the aim of finalising all category activities before the cycle submission deadline.

Sheikh Sultan Award category activities should be safe and enjoyable, but also help challenge participants out of their comfort zone. This can be achieved by encouraging participants to commence a completely new activity or by enhancing their pre-existing capabilities. Upon the completion of every medal, the Sheikh Sultan Award participant should feel a rewarding sense of accomplishment.

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Planning Category Activities

Coordinator based registration

If a participant enters the award via a school or club-based coordinator they can either plan their own category activities or benefit from those scheduled for a group of participants by the coordinator.

For example, a school or club-based coordinator may wish to organise a group volunteering trip to help facilitate many participants completing the volunteering category together.

Individual registration

Participants are responsible for planning and completing their own activities in each category. This involves:

- Choosing suitable activities that meet the Award requirements
- Finding opportunities through licensed centres and institutions in the UAE that provide these activities
- Keeping clear records and evidence of their progress

Suggestions and ideas provided in this manual can help guide participants in selecting and completing their activities successfully

Advice for Participants



Past winners of the award have often enjoyed the process of working towards the award with their peers. All category activities can be completed either solo or within a group of participants.

Choose category activities that interest and inspire you; this could be an activity you are already familiar with or an activity you have never tried before.

Plan your activities well in advance, taking into consideration the timing of the cycle and weather conditions.

If applicable, make use of your Award Coordinator. Ask the coordinator about your ideas and experiences and seek assistance from others when necessary.

Although not compulsory, past winners have often continued their category activities after completing the minimum hours required for their chosen medal. Regular commitment to any volunteering role, skill or fitness activity always shows maximum impact.

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Financial Considerations

The Sheikh Sultan Award **does not charge** any fees to participants to complete the award or attend the award ceremony.

While some external providers may charge for their services (e.g. training or use of specialised facilities), these costs are not required by the Award itself. Any coordinator, school, activity provider or organisation must clearly inform participants in advance of any applicable costs.

Whilst the careful selection of category activities will help minimise the cost of completing the award, participants and their families are encouraged to budget the financial cost of each category activity before commencing the award.

Application Audit

As part of the award auditing process, selected participants may be contacted by the Sheikh Sultan Award administration team and asked to provide additional proof of completed activities. Participants should keep a written record and evidence of all category activities, including the completion date.

Please note: *Submission of completed certificates alone does not guarantee automatic approval of the award.*

Application Results

After the completion of the auditing process for all submissions, individual applicants will be notified of their results via email.

For applications submitted through coordinators, the results will be communicated directly to the responsible coordinator.

Please note: *The Sheikh Sultan Award does not provide detailed feedback on each application individually; however, general observations and key areas for improvement will be shared following the announcement of the final results.*

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Award Coordinators

Role of the Coordinator

Participants completing the Sheikh Sultan Award as part of a school group, youth entity or club may benefit from the support of a registered Award Coordinator. The coordinator acts as a contact point between the Sheikh Sultan Award and the participant; they are the representation of the award and its values within the specific school/organisation.

The coordinator must be an employee or volunteer of a school or organisation within the UAE.

Responsibilities of the Coordinator

Participant Support & Guidance	• Act as the main point of contact for participants • Explain award requirements to participants. • Monitor progress and provide encouragement and problem-solving support
Program Delivery	• Organise group category activities, ensuring they meet award criteria such as adventure camps and volunteering projects • Ensure responsibility for the safety and safeguarding of all participants whilst completing all award activities
Administration	• Ensure participant files are complete, clear, compliant, and submitted on time • Inform winners of application result once results are shared by the Award team • Coordinate winners' attendance at the Award ceremony (transport, RSVP, and ID documents) • Attend annual coordinators' training events to remain up to date with all award criteria.
Promotion & Engagement	• Encourage participation by promoting the Award within the organisation • Monitor participant progress throughout the award cycle • Organise information sessions, presentations, and recognition events for current and future participants

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Coordinators Training

Coordinators' training events will be hosted in person and online at the commencement of each award cycle. During this event, new and continuing coordinators are invited to learn about setting up/growing the award within their organisation and to share best practice strategies.

Coordinators who complete the training will be awarded a certificate of completion and will be added to the coordinators database to facilitate easier communication with the award administration team.



- *To be aware of regular updates and events, Coordinators and school Principals should ensure their details are kept up to date with the Sheikh Sultan Award*
- *Should an allocated coordinator change roles please email info@sheikhsultanaward.ae*

Application Audit

As part of the award auditing process, coordinators may be contacted by the Sheikh Sultan Award administration team and asked to provide additional proof of completed activities.

Please note: *submission of completed certificates alone does not guarantee automatic approval of the award.*

Combined Certificates

Coordinator-issued combined certificates (detailing multiple category activities in one document) will no longer be accepted.

If participants complete two or more category activities during one experience, e.g. a one-week adventure and volunteering camp, coordinators are advised to generate one certificate per category activity.

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Photographs and Videos

When appropriate, it is recommended that participants take photographs of their activities during the award; these can be useful for reflecting on their award journey or showcasing their achievements.

Photographic evidence **is only required** in the absence of a supporting certificate in the skills section (see skills section) or in the instance of the award audit (see required evidence section).

By submitting photographs or videos as part of their Award evidence, participants and coordinators acknowledge that the Sheikh Sultan Award reserves the right to use this media for promotional purposes, including on social media and official publications. Photos and videos will not be used for any other purposes.



When sharing/publishing any recordings, participants and coordinators are reminded that all media taken during category activities should reflect the professional nature of the award programme.

Participant Goals *(Optional Activity)*

Personal goal setting is **not required** for completing the Sheikh Sultan Award, but it can make participants' award journeys more meaningful. By setting goals, participants can focus on what they want to achieve and reflect on their progress.

Participants are encouraged to use the SMART framework (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Timed) to set short and practical goals for each category.

SMART Goal example:

"As part of my 30 hours of Swimming practice (through my local swim academy) to complete the Fitness & Wellbeing category for my Silver Sheikh Sultan Award, I want to improve my swimming ability by improving my 50m freestyle stroke from 45 seconds to 35 seconds before the end of March 2026"



Remember: Your goals are personal to you. What matters most is the effort you put in and what you learn along the way.

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Additional Information

Excluded Activities

The Sheikh Sultan Award should include a variety of experiences that participants find intrinsically worthwhile and rewarding, and which is mutually beneficial to them and their communities.

Below is a list of activities that are not applicable; however, participants are advised to check with their Award Coordinator if they are unsure:

- Any activity, class or project that is already part of a participant's academic study
- Any activity for which the participant receives a financial reward
- Any activity which places the participant or others at risk of physical or emotional harm
- A passive pursuit e.g. visiting a museum or exhibition, going to the cinema, attending a concert
- Unauthorised financial fundraising (not adhering to UAE charity licensing requirements)

Completing the Award Overseas

For verification purposes, only certificates provided by UAE-based organisations, schools or businesses can be utilised for the Sheikh Sultan Award.
Participants who wish to complete any component of the award outside of the UAE are advised to do so within the structure of a UAE-based organisation or company.



A participant who wishes to complete their volunteering/adventure category overseas can do so through a volunteering camp organised by a UAE-based school/organisation.

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Completing the Sheikh Sultan Award whilst studying the International Baccalaureate® (IB)

International Baccalaureate Diploma and Middle Years Program students may wish to combine their award activities with those of the Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) or Service as Action programmes. To ensure an efficient use of time, Sheikh Sultan Award participants are encouraged to consider activities that will be able to facilitate the requirements of the Programme and the Award.

Participants are advised to check the requirements of both the Programme and the Award. carefully and to contact their IB CAS / Service as Action Coordinator for further information.

Completing the Sheikh Sultan Award whilst completing other Youth-based award programmes

The Sheikh Sultan Award does not prohibit applicants from completing more than one youth-based award programme simultaneously e.g. King Scout Award, the Duke of Edinburgh Award, etc. If applicable, participants are encouraged to utilise any relevant activities to fulfil the requirements for multiple awards, provided all category activities meet the specified requirements.

Participants are advised to check the requirements of all activities and to contact their relevant coordinator(s) for further information. The Sheikh Sultan Award are unable to provide specific advice regarding the requirements of other youth-based award programs.

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Legal Framework and Regulatory Responsibilities

The Sheikh Sultan Award is an award-accrediting body by nature and not legally responsible for child supervision and safety during category activities; this responsibility is held by the certified provider, educational establishment, relevant parent/guardian and/or category activity provider.

All category activity providers and award coordinators must ensure adherence to all applicable UAE laws and standards, including activity-specific regulations and permits. It is the responsibility of activity providers and the award coordinator to keep informed of any regulatory or legal changes in this domain.

Educational establishments providing category activities, trips or camps are responsible for compliance with specific activity approvals as advised by their respective regulatory authority.

Sheikh Sultan Award Alumni

All participants who complete any Sheikh Sultan Award medal successfully will be considered as ‘Award Alumni’. Alumni will be added to a dedicated email list and notified of any relevant opportunities to continue the efforts of their award journey. As the Sheikh Sultan Award aims to personally develop the participants and benefit the community around them, all Award Alumni are encouraged to continue their efforts after finishing the award cycle.

University / Job Applications

The skills and lessons gained from a successful award journey may be a beneficial addition to participants’ applications for University, further education or careers.

Please note that the Sheikh Sultan Award administration team cannot provide individual references for alumni; however, participants can contact their award coordinator for this service.

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The Award Ceremony

The award ceremony is a special event in which award winners attend a formal gathering to receive their Sheikh Sultan Award.

It is an opportunity for winners to celebrate their achievements, reflect on their progress, and meet other recipients of the award from across the United Arab Emirates.

After the announcement of results at the end of each cycle, participants will be notified of the date and time of the ceremony. Organisation and school coordinators are expected to assist with winners' attendance, including transport, invitations, and ID documentation.

Award winners who are unable to attend the in-person ceremony can receive their award via their respective coordinator.



Successful participants of Cycle Five

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Frequently Asked Questions

General

Who can particiate in the Sheikh Sultan Award?

The Sheikh Sultan Award is open to all citizens and residents of the UAE aged 13-18. Read: Page 4

Is there a first, second and third place winner of the award?

The Sheikh Sultan Award is non-competitive. If a participant meets the criteria for their chosen medal, they will win the award.

Do I need to study for the Sheikh Sultan Award?

The Sheikh Sultan Award should complement the study you do in school, but is non-academic.

How can I enter the Sheikh Sultan Award?

By applying individually (through the Award website) or via an Award Coordinator (school/organisation).

Registration and Participation

Can I participate in the award more than once?

Yes. Participants can apply for a higher medal in a future cycle. Gold medal winners must wait two cycles to reapply for another Gold medal.

Can I use past activities to count toward my award?

Yes. Activities completed within the past 24 months before the cycle deadline can be submitted.

Can I apply for the Gold award directly (without completing other medals)?

Yes, participants can begin their award journey from their chosen starting medal.

Can I complete the award overseas?

Only if the activity is arranged and verified by a UAE-based organisation. Read: Page 23

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Frequently Asked Questions

Activity Categories

Can I complete the award activities in a group?

Yes. Activities can be completed individually or with peers. Coordinators may also arrange group-based opportunities.

Do activities have to be completed through a certified provider?

Adventure, Volunteering, and Fitness activities must be completed via a certified provider. Skills, may be evidenced by a self-learning video.

Can I stay in a hotel or cabin for the Adventure category?

No. Adventure category camps must be completed in tents made for camping in a natural location.

Can I swap a category for another?

In the Silver medal, participants can choose to complete the Skills or Fitness/Wellbeing categories.

Accessibility and Costs

Is there a fee to participate in the Sheikh Sultan Award?

The Sheikh Sultan Award itself is completely free. Any costs derived from external providers should remain minimal, optional, and clearly communicated in advance.

Can participants without a valid Emirates ID complete the award?

Participants without formal identity documentation should contact info@sheikhsultanaward.ae for participation support.

My school/organisation doesn't offer the Sheikh Sultan Award, how can I apply?

Complete your category activities then submit all evidence (via the website) before the cycle closing date of 1st May as an inidividual applicant.

How can my school/organisation register a new coordinator for the award?

Schools/organisations should email info@sheikhsultanaward.ae for coordinator support.

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Contact Us

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Follow Us

To keep up to date on helpful tips, reminders and events related to the Sheikh Sultan Award, please follow us on the following social media channels:

@shksultanaward

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