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SMC Student Completes Gold Duke of Edinburgh Program

Submitted by Joshua Poolis



Expedition at Brecon Beacon Mountains in Wales.
Photos provided



Saint Mary's College junior Joshua Poolis, who attended Cwmtawe Community School in Swansea in the United Kingdom, travelled to London Nov. 12 to receive his certificate from the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) patron and founder - his royal highness The Duke of Edinburgh and Gold Award holder, his royal highness The Earl of Wessex. The Gold Award Presentation recognized Poolis' completion of his DofE program that took over two years to achieve. In total, over 4.4 million people have participated in DofE programmes and achieved over 2 million Awards in the UK since 1956. Program activities included helping young carers, volunteering for a charity workshop, and intense weight lift training for his 100-mile expedition across the stormy Welsh Brecon Beacon Mountains. Poolis' quick thinking came into play when one of his team members injured his ankle at the peak, Pen Y Fan, at 3,000 feet during a storm. He quickly realized his team member's condition was potentially serious and acting on instinct, he pitched a tent for his team member to rest in while he went to get help.

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[back](#)

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