



Heritage Hero Awards: A Guide for Home Educators

What are the Heritage Hero Awards?

The Heritage Hero Awards are an award scheme open to anyone engaging with cultural heritage. They aim to encourage connection with the past, and to reward achievement. The Heritage Hero Awards are run by Archaeology Scotland, the leading independent charity working to inspire people to discover, explore, care for, and enjoy Scotland's archaeological heritage. The Awards are highly flexible, which makes them well suited to your home education setup. You do not need to be part of a school or youth group, nor partnered with a museum or heritage group to participate in the awards.

The aims of the award scheme are:

- ◆ To improve self-confidence and wellbeing through engagement with challenging heritage projects
- ◆ To inspire young people to develop a lifelong interest in the past
- ◆ To help foster links between heritage organisations, community groups and young people
- ◆ To celebrate achievements and skills development, regardless of academic ability

The Awards are based on a relationship of trust and support between Archaeology Scotland and those taking part. The paperwork is minimal and there is no required written work for participants to ensure the Awards are accessible for all ages and abilities.

Key Details

The Awards flexibility makes them well suited to home educated individuals, families and home education coop groups. Every group project should allow participants to take part in the 5 activities listed below. These fit very naturally with project work and should be easy to complete within any project you undertake.

Plan

Be involved in the planning of the project from the big ideas to the fine detail.

Investigate	Engage	Inspire
Research and find out more about the heritage you want to engage with.	Visit, explore and experience heritage. Spend time on the site or with the collection at the heart of the project.	Share what you have learnt in an imaginative way. Inspire others with something you create.

Reflect

Identify the transferable skills you have developed through the project.

Evaluate your own performance, what you have learnt and how you could use this going forward.

There are **5 different award levels** to cover all ages, abilities and projects. Completion of the previous level is not necessary. For family groups or home education coops, different levels can be used for different learners working on the same project (e.g. older children can work towards a higher level).

Different members of the group can also spend different amounts of time on award sections according to their interests, as long as everyone does something for each level.

Our entry level award Heritage Explorer is applicable to projects of 3+ hours and our Gold level is suitable for more in-depth projects of 60+ hours.

Name	Description	Time
Heritage Explorer	For discovering heritage	3+ hrs
Heritage Detective	For finding out about heritage	8+ hrs
Heritage Hero - Bronze	For getting involved with heritage	15+ hrs
Heritage Hero - Silver	For developing your own skills and interests in heritage	30+ hrs
Heritage Hero - Gold	For leading and inspiring through heritage	60+ hrs

Projects

There is a huge range of projects you could complete to achieve the Award. The [Award Handbook](#) provides activity suggestions for each Award stage, as well as some completed case studies. More case studies can be found on our [website](#). Your work can involve visits to sites or museums, but it is also possible to complete an award entirely from home. You can plan your projects based on your local area; any upcoming historical anniversaries or occasions; around a key aspect of your broader learning or curriculum; or the interests of your family or group!

Read about how one family achieved their Silver Award by researching and producing a heritage trail for their hometown: [Case Study. Creating a digital heritage trail of our hometown – a history project for home education](#)

Here are some more ideas to get you started:

- You could **study the history of your local area**. Have a look at old maps and photographs of your local area online. How has it changed through time? You could interview older relatives or friends from your area about what has changed in their lifetime or take photographs of the same spots as old photographs you can find online. You could make your own heritage trail or map of the local area.
- You could look at **museum collections in person or online**. If you can't go in person you could do a virtual gallery tour or investigate 3D models of artefacts.
- You could plan a project in line with **annual awareness events** (e.g. LGBT History Month; International Women's Day; Black History Month).

How to take part in the Heritage Hero Awards

We ask that you register for the awards before the start of the project, by completing the first side of our [Project Outline Form](#). We are happy to offer help and advice at that point, and whenever you need during the project.

When your project is finished, we ask for you to complete the second side of the form and return it to us. We will review it and issue individual certificates for each member of your group. Please allow around 3 weeks for the certificate turnaround time.

You do not need to be part of a heritage or youth group to take part in the awards and no affiliation with an organisation is needed. You can complete your project over a timescale that suits you, whether over a day, a week or several months.

How we can support you

You can contact us at any stage of your project for advice and to answer any questions you may have. We can provide advice on developing your project ideas as well as how to ensure it meets all the sections of the awards. We are also able to offer suggestions of resources which you may find useful, or sites and museums you may wish to visit.

We have **Award Workbooks** we can email you to record your activities. These are completely optional but might be helpful for parents and guardians who are unfamiliar with wider achievement awards. They can be useful in structuring your project and keeping track of your progress as well as offering space to log hours you have spent on different activities and to write down ideas.

You may also wish to use some of our free resources to support your projects, which include our **[Loan Kits](#)**, containing a mix of real and replica artefacts and activity ideas; and the **[Heritage Resource Portal](#)**, our searchable database of heritage resources for learners of all ages.

‘We have found the booklet guide really useful and a great way of tracking progress. The handbook is particularly useful for examples and tips for research ideas and engaging. I would definitely recommend the loan kits if families were unsure where to start.’

Home Education Parent

Contact Us

For further information or a chat about the awards, please contact us at **awards@archaeologyscotland.org.uk**. We are also happy to arrange telephone or video calls if you feel more supported in this way.

To keep informed about our activities and learning resources, please consider joining our mailing list for the **Learning Newsletter**. You can join the list **[here](#)**.