

Home and Away Base

The Faith in Action award encourages young people to engage in faith activity both in their ‘home base, be that at school or in the parish, and in the wider community, their ‘away base’.

If your group is based in a parish, that is where your ‘home’ credits should be accrued, and your ‘away’ credits could be accrued at school or through service in the local community .If the young person does not attend a Catholic school, they could still gain credits at school for volunteering service but they could equally gain the credits in their Scout group or a social club that they attend.

In a school-based group, the ‘home’ credits are accrued through school, however we would encourage that for any Catholic taking part in the award some credits should be gained in the parish, even if connection up to this point has been limited. It may be that the group leader should support this engagement by letting the local clergy know that the programme is in place and that they may have young people looking for volunteering opportunities.

Award Level Descriptors

Level	Home credits	Away credits	Expectation	Example
Pin (Discovery)	20	0	These credits are largely gained whilst working as a group/class and the activity is led by a teacher/catechist/youth worker	Fundraising in school/parish Working together on an assembly Putting together charity hampers
Bronze (Service)	20	10	Independently serving others. Making choices about what volunteering to do. Showing commitment and reliability .	Being on the altar server/reader/welcome/tea serving rota at church. Attending a Lourdes pilgrimage and serving others (Max 7 credits)
Silver (Development or Leadership)	20	15	If entering the award scheme at this level, there must be evidence of taking the lead . If following on from bronze level, the service may be shown as development / improving understanding .	Development – proposing and trialling a new way to welcome people into the church or designing a new welcome leaflet. Leadership – Alongside others organises a campaigning or fundraising community action in school/parish and takes a specific role
Gold (Innovation)	20	20	The key expectation at this level is that something new/innovative will be established as a result of the volunteering service taken	Organises an outing for the young people in the parish, considering all aspects of the project. Establishes a new post Lourdes prayer group. Personally organises an event.

What may leaders expect at each level?

The most valuable resource of this award scheme is the leader and the relationship he/she fosters with the participants. It is this dynamic, played out in a faith context, which will allow for informed guidance and decision making at each point in the process.

For the award to have meaning it is vital that the participants feel challenged and supported so that they encounter personal and spiritual growth. What is important therefore is not that a specific list of activities are completed and ticked off, but rather that the experiences help move the participant forwards on their journey of faith.

It is important that the leaders see themselves as more than administrators of the process. The leadership that they give should allow participants to synthesize experience, learning and action in a real and concrete way.

Leaders are therefore encouraged to be creative and to remain responsive to the needs, experiences and context of those with whom they journey. It is hoped that each level of this award could be gained by a young person with learning disabilities – academic achievement should not be a barrier to gaining each level, but every young person should feel that their award has been suitably personally challenging.

The key words at each level have been put in bold in the expectations column above and in order to justify a level these words should be evident to the leader.