



**Use your skills to  
help young people  
gain theirs.**

**District Youth Commissioner**



# About us

We're Scouts and everyone's welcome here. All genders, races and backgrounds. Every week we give almost half a million people aged 6-25 the skills they need for school, college, university, the job interview, the important speech, the tricky challenge and the big dreams: the skills they need for life.

At a time when communities are becoming more divided, we bring people together. When many young people are struggling to find purpose and belonging, Scouts helps them develop skills, confidence and a sense of hope. We inspire positive futures and help young people find their place in the world by developing the character, employability and practical skills they need to succeed.

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'Scouts made me a do-er and a give it a go-er. Made me question and listen and have a wide-open mind. Scouts made me take a deep breath and speak up. Made me think on my feet, made me see the big picture, made me ignore the butterflies and go for it. Scouts made me get back up and try again. Made me think about what's next, and plan for it. Made me jump in, get muddy, give back and get set.'

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## What do Scouts do?

Scouts take part in a wide range of activities as diverse as kayaking, abseiling, expeditions overseas, photography, climbing and zorbing. As a Scout you can learn survival skills, first aid, computer programming or even how to fly a plane. There's something for everyone. It's a great way to have fun, make friends, get outdoors, express your creativity and experience the wider world.

## What do volunteers do?

Helping young people develop skills for life is only possible thanks to our team of adult volunteers, who support Scouts in a wide range of roles from working directly with young people, to helping manage a local community based Group, to being a charity Trustee. We help volunteers get the most out of their experiences at Scouts by providing opportunities for adventure, training, fun and friendship.

Our award winning training scheme for volunteers means that adults get as much from Scouts as young people. Our approach focuses on what you want to get out of volunteering with Scouts, while respecting how much time you can offer. Over 90% of Scout volunteers say that their skills and experiences have been useful in their work or personal life.

# Our strategic plan

**By 2023 we will have prepared more young people with skills for life, supported by amazing leaders who deliver an inspiring programme. We will be growing, more inclusive, shaped by young people and making a bigger impact in our communities.**

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Society is changing. In often fragmented communities, the pressures and expectations on young people are increasing. The future is uncertain. Scouts has never been so important in helping young people prepare for the future, developing the skills they need to succeed in a changing world. Each week almost half a million young people enjoy fun, friendship and outdoor adventure. They develop a sense of optimism and strong values as well as the leadership and team working skills that are more valuable today than ever.

Our movement achieves remarkable things. Our previous plan, Scouting for All, inspired new Groups and sections to start in an additional 834 areas of deprivation since 2013. We now help over 460,000 young people aged 6-18 (including the highest number of girls in our history) get the best possible start in life.

Now we want to go further. Skills for Life is a strategy that supports and empowers our volunteers who are the people that make Scouts a reality. It's a strategy to bring communities together and contribute towards a better society. But most of all, it's a strategy for young people. They deserve the best skills, the best support, and the best possible futures.

# Our values

## Integrity

We say what we mean and when we make a promise, we keep it.

## Respect

We listen to others, explore our differences and work to find common ground.

## Care

Scouts are friends to all and think of others before themselves.

## Belief

We believe passionately in improving the lives and life chances of young people and helping them explore and develop their beliefs and attitudes.

## Cooperation

Scouting is about teamwork. We believe that when we work together we achieve more than we can on our own.

## Did you know?

- 9 out of 10 parents think their children would benefit from learning skills for life
- 83% of parents think Scouts helps young people develop skills for life
- 9 out of 10 UK adults think Scouts develop empathy
- 9 out of 10 UK adults think Scouts develop active listening skills 11 of the 12 people to walk on the moon were Scouts.
- Scouts have stood on the summit of Everest and at the South Pole.
- Scouts are public spirited – all our leaders are volunteers and nearly half (47%) volunteer outside of Scouts too.
- Over 160,000 adult volunteers in Scouting learn new skills, make new friends and make a positive impact in their communities.
- We offer over 200 activities from abseiling and coding to drama and water-zorbing.
- Over a quarter of UK Scouting's membership is female.

# The role

## Role description

**Purpose:** The role is to ensure that young people from 6 – 25 years are involved and engaged in every decision that shapes their Scouting experience locally and to empower young people to share their ideas and have a meaningful voice in planning, implementing and reviewing their programme and opportunities.

**Appointed by:** District Commissioner

**Responsible to:** District Commissioner

**Responsible for:** District Youth Forum (or similar), Deputy District Youth Commissioner(s) (if appointed)

**Internal contacts:** Young people within their District, District Commissioner, District Youth Forum Lead, Deputy District Youth Commissioners, Deputy District Commissioners, Group Scout Leaders, District Explorer Scout Commissioner, District Scout Network Commissioners, Scout Network Programme Coordinators, Assistant District Commissioners, District Chairperson, members of the District Executive Committee and its sub-committees, County Youth Commissioner and other District Youth Commissioners.

**Key tasks:** The following are the 'General' duties of the role which will be made more specific in accordance with the needs of the District on appointment to the role.

- Supporting youth shaped scouting in the programme across the District
- Increase the role and participation of young people in the leadership and management of the District.
- Contribute to the development of the District's development plan
- Embed young people into decision making within the District
- Work with the County Youth Commissioner to develop youth-shaped Scouting within the County, providing feedback to adults and young people.
- Establish a robust method of communicating with the District Commissioner and young people within the District.

**Time commitment:** Up to an average of six to eight hours per week

**Terms of appointment:** To understand and accept The Scout Association's policies, have a satisfactory DBS Clearance, Completion of Wood Badge, which includes the Section Supporter Modules as detailed in the Adult's Personal File and The Scout Association's Adult Training Scheme.

**Expenses:** Reasonable expenditure, subject to prior approval by the District Executive Finance Sub-Committee, are paid in reimbursement for expenses incurred in carrying out the role(s)

# Person specification

**Age:** Must be 18-25 years old

## **Skills and abilities:**

- Ability to lead teams
- Excellent written and communication skills
- Be computer literate
- Be a self motivator and be able to motivate others positively
- Able to work well in meetings
- Excellent presenting and facilitating skills
- Ability to work and engage with young people aged 6 – 25
- Ability to work and engage with adult members
- Be articulate
- Ability to speak publicly
- Ability to be persuasive
- Ability to work within predefined limits (for examples timescales and budgets)
- Ability to accept and positively respond to responsibility

**Knowledge and experience:** An understanding of The Scouts Associations structure and procedures and previous experience of youth involvement or participation.

## **Personal qualities:**

- Able to maintain confidentiality at all times and a high level of personal credibility
- Good time-management skills
- Friendly, personable and ability to work with and understand other people
- Willing to learn and be part of the larger District Team contributing to the development Blackpool District.
- Understand the limits of the role as agreed with the District Commissioner and when to consult when something falls outside of these – in other words “know what you don’t know” and seek help.

## **Benefits to you:**

- Employability skills
- Management experience
- Strategic thinking
- Key volunteer for a national not-for-profit organisation
- Build confidence
- Training available if required

# How to apply

## Process

Please contact the District Commissioner for an informal discussion in the first instance. There will be a nomination form / application form that will required to be submitted for this role.

### Victoria DaSilva

District Commissioner  
Blackpool District Scouts

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