

# SHAPE FROM THE TOP A GUIDE TO ELECTED YOUTH MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

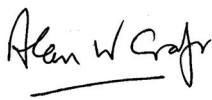


# INTRODUCTION

Youth-shaped Scouting is at the heart of our Scouting for All strategy. By allowing young people to shape their own experience at Scouts in partnership with adults, we can reach new heights in delivering exciting and life-changing experiences to our members. Having specific positions for young people on The Scout Association's Board of Trustees is extremely important to us, for exactly the same reasons.

Becoming a Trustee with The Scout Association is an experience like no other for 18-25 year olds. It opens up a huge array of opportunities to shape the organisation and provides a valuable insight into one of the UK's best known charities.

Trustees, no matter their age or background, are always valued for the experience they bring. We look forward to hearing about your experience in your nomination.



**Sir Alan Craft**



**Wayne Bulpitt**



**Hannah Kentish**



**Matt Hyde**

We've written this pack to make the role of Elected Youth Member of the Board of Trustees more accessible. Historically there have been few nominations to the role, and yet the role is truly valuable to the Association. By giving a little more detail of what is actually expected of trustees, and why the role is important, we hope to inspire more people to become interested.

You will also find included in this pack a case study from a current youth member, details of the role itself and information on the nominations process. We would encourage anyone who feels they can make a positive contribution on a national scale to get themselves nominated.

Good luck!

**Ashley Russell**

**Jake Myatt**

**Michael Rollinson**

Elected Youth Members - TSA Board of Trustees

## Is this the job for me?

Officially, this role simply requires that you are:

- aged 18 to 25
- are a member or associate member of The Scout Association

However, we would suggest that you are also:

- passionate about what you do
- able to contribute positively
- confident in presenting your views
- able to articulate yourself well verbally and in writing
- prepared to ask questions when you don't know what's going on

## What would I have to do?

Trustees are expected to attend four meetings each year, four committee meetings and, possibly, several special events throughout the year. Each meeting lasts a full day and will take place at either Gilwell Park or Baden-Powell House. Travel expenses can be reimbursed for any event or meeting you attend as a Trustee. Accommodation can also be arranged by the staff at headquarters when travel the same day is impractical.

### Before the meeting

Before each meeting, members receive a pack of documents, each of which will relate to an item on the agenda for that meeting. The papers will give some background to each item and will either make a proposal or just present it for noting, where the person writing the paper just wants to keep everyone informed. The size of the pack will depend on how many items are on the agenda for that day.

What to note about papers:

- the size of the paper won't necessarily be reflective of the length of discussion around it (or its importance)
- there will always be an author at the end who you can contact if you have any questions
- there will always be an 'executive summary' at the top, so you can remind yourself of any proposals quickly during meetings

### What are the Committees?

The Board can't discuss everything itself and, in some cases, may not have the expertise to. As a result, we have several sub-committees which deal with specific areas.

The Committees deal with:

- nominations
- finance
- risk
- operations
- staffing, salary and remuneration

Trustees are required to sit on one of these committees. Which committee they sit on depends on their expertise, interests and where they are most needed.

### **What's a board meeting like?**

Although there's no such thing as an 'average' board meeting, the commitment we ask from you when it comes to attending them usually looks the same. The meetings last the whole day, during which we discuss major project updates, finances, successes and failings since the last meeting and various items which have presented themselves. Major developments, such as national news-worthy events, may also come up at meetings so trustees aren't surprised when they appear. Trustees have the chance to meet fellow trustees and discuss the issues which are important to them across the day.

### **Special events**

Trustees are invited, on rotation, to attend National Scouting Special Events as VIPs. These include Windsor Parade and the National Scout Thanksgiving Service. Typically, a special lunch will be included to give members a chance to speak with award holders and representatives of external organisations.

## **CASE STUDY**

### **Ashley Russell**

Elected Youth Members - TSA Board of Trustees

I've been involved in Scouting for nearly ten years now. Over this time I've been on 150 nights away, met some incredible people at the World Scout Jamboree in Sweden, learned some amazing Scout skills and had amazing fun every step of the way. I've also had the privilege to give back to the Scout Troop I grew up in as a Young Leader and Assistant Leader. I'm still an active youth member, as a member of Network, and am working towards my DofE Gold and Queen's Scout Award.

Becoming a Trustee of The Scout Association was a totally new experience for me. It's a much more corporate environment than you get anywhere else within Scouting - and rightly so. You're sat there with leaders in various industries around you, making decisions about the very nature of Scouting in the UK. It's an unparalleled opportunity, in my opinion. UK Scouting is huge, and you have responsibility for all of it!

Coming onto the Board, I didn't have any formal experience of committees or the like (except my time on my local campsite's committee) and so needed a lot of guidance. Thankfully, everyone was immensely supportive. Everyone is there because they believe in improving the chances for young people, so it is only natural for them to help us out.

The skills I've learned through the experience and people I've met in my time as Trustee, have now given me the confidence to take on a Scout Group of my own in my university city as GSL. There's now a whole section of Beaver Scouts who are enjoying Scouting because of the strategy, planning and development skills I've developed.

There really is no other opportunity like it. Nowhere else could you be exposed to such a level of responsibility. For anyone who's thinking about it, I'd say 'Go for it!'

# THE NOMINATIONS PROCESS

involves being nominated by two members of the Council of The Scout Association, and then elected by the same Council before the AGM in September, where results are announced.

Members of Council include:

- the President
- the Chief Scout
- Treasurer
- the Deputy Chief Scout[s]
- Chief Executive
- the International Commissioner
- the Chairmen of the national boards of the Association
- any person holding appointment as a Chief Commissioner or a national Commissioner
- County Commissioners of the United Kingdom
- the Chairman and Members of the Board of Trustees
- nominated Members from each Scout County
- nominated Youth Members from each Scout County
- Elected Members (usually VIPs or people with a former position within The Scout Association)

It's important to approach your local members of Council (probably your County Commissioner and Nominated Youth Representative) and convince them that you are worthy of being nominated. Once nominated, Facebook, email, phone, meet and Tweet any other member of Council around the country to convince them to vote for you!

It's the very nature of Scouting which means people will generally be happy to talk to you about this, so be confident, though do bear in mind that they may be very busy, so be sure to leave enough time. .

This year nominations is completely online. For details, please see [mi-nomination.com/sa](http://mi-nomination.com/sa)

If you don't know who your County Commissioner or Nominated Youth Rep are, contact the Info Centre to find out. Phone **0845 300 1818** (local rate) or **0208 433 7100**, or email [info.centre@scouts.org.uk](mailto:info.centre@scouts.org.uk).

## TIPS

- get known – get your name out there
- show your passion
- be specific about what you are interested in (no-one can be interested in everything!)
- listen to everyone's advice; take some of it, use a little of it
- be yourself!

Good luck!

