



# Help them take the plunge.

Information for anyone thinking  
about being **District Scout Network  
Commissioner**

**network**



**Scouts**

New Forest

# TL;DR

Scout Network is for all 18 to 25 year olds in Scouting. They might volunteer, be off to uni or want adventure closer to home.

The DSNC supports all of them to be their best self. This gives you more information about this.

## Contents:

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| <b>About the Scouts</b>                              | <b>3</b> |
| <b>Scouts in our area</b>                            | <b>4</b> |
| <b>What we are looking for</b>                       | <b>4</b> |
| <b>What might you get up to?</b>                     | <b>4</b> |
| <b>How to express your interest or find out more</b> | <b>5</b> |

# Who are the Scouts

## What do the Scouts do?

Everyone's welcome in Scouts: 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.



## 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 values

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>Integrity</b>   | We say what we mean and when we make a promise, we keep it.   |
| <b>Respect</b>     | We listen to others, explore our differences and work to find common ground.  |
| <b>Care</b>        | Scouts are friends to all and think of others before themselves.  |
| <b>Belief</b>      | We believe passionately in improving the lives and life chances of young people and helping them explore and develop their beliefs and attitudes. |
| <b>Cooperation</b> | Scouting is about teamwork. We believe that when we work together we achieve more than we can on our own.   |

## Our plan

The Scouts have a plan to grow, become more inclusive, give a voice to our young people and have an impact in our community. Called *Skills for Life*, it runs from 2018-2025. By 2025 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. Find it at [scouts.org.uk/ourplan](https://scouts.org.uk/ourplan).

The role of District Scout Network Commissioner is key to this plan in giving a voice to our young people and helping the movement grow so we don't lose great Scouts when they turn 18.

# Scouts in our district

New Forest Scout District covers the northern half of the New Forest National Park. It has twelve Scout Groups based in Burley, Copythorne, Colbury, Fordingbridge, Hightown, Lyndhurst, Netley Marsh, Poulner, Sandleheath, Testwood and Testwood Lakes. It was set up last year from the merger of two smaller districts.

It is led by a Team of five people who together are the lead volunteers for our area. There are also people who look after and support our sections, our volunteers and ensure we follow the rules.



## What are we looking for?

We're looking for a District Scout Network Commissioner who can be the voice of our 18-25 year old Scout Network members and encourage them to shape and participate in the Scout Network programme of activities and awards. They manage these young people and make sure the rules are followed.

We want a range of people from different backgrounds, areas of the forest and experiences to get in touch so we can find the best person or people for this role.

**Responsible to:** District Commissioner

**Responsible for:** Programme Coordinators, usually Scout Network members who run the Pegasus Scout Network activities.

**Main Contacts:** Members of the District Scout Network, Programme Coordinators, District Explorer Scout Commissioner, District Commissioner, Explorer Scout Leaders, Assistant County Commissioner (Top Awards), District Chairperson, Duke of Edinburgh's Award Adviser, Queen Scout Award Coordinator, District Youth Commissioner.

**Appointment Requirements:** Must successfully complete the appointment process (including acceptable personal enquiries and acceptance of The Scout Association's policies). During the five months of Provisional Appointment the relevant Getting Started modules must be completed. A Wood Badge training must be completed during the Appointment, and ongoing safeguarding and safety training must be completed.

## What might you get up to?

### Delivering a quality programme for the New Forest

- Actively support and encourage Scout Network members (aged 18-25 years) in shaping and participating in the Scout programme including by forming teams to get involved in activities.
- Ensure that a safe and exciting programme is available to Scout Network members.
- Encourage members to take part in top awards including the Queen's Scout Award, Explorer Belt, Scouts of the World Award and the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards and support members to take part in these.
- Regularly review the Scout Network provision to ensure they have access to the best experience.

### Managing the operation of the District Scout Network

- Manage the membership and joining process for Scout Network and transfer membership when needed.
- Ensure that Scout Network is supported so all can take part in the programme.

- Recruit, induct and support Programme Coordinators to lead activities.
- Maintain a good relationship with the District Executive Committee, to ensure that the Scout Network is adequately and appropriately funded, and has access to buildings and equipment as needed.
- Ensure that the Link Agreement made with all Explorer Scout Units is regularly reviewed.
- Promote, encourage and support good relationships between the District Scout Network, the District Explorer Scout Commissioner and Explorer Scout Leaders. In particular this is to enable and encourage the moving on process from Explorer Scouts, including Young Leaders, to the Scout Network.
- Act as a point of contact for all 18-25 year olds wishing to take on an adult appointment in the District, as well as those who are solely members of the District Scout Network, ensuring they have followed the correct process.
- Engage and communicate with all 18-25 year olds in the District, encouraging them to take part.
- Ensure efficient administration of the District Scout Network records and finances, and enable regular communication of information to young people and adults in the District.
- Actively encourage young adults to consider the full range of adult appointments, including Scout Active Support membership, during their time as a Scout Network member, particularly as they approach the age of 25.

## Wider District tasks

- Ensure links and promotion between the District Scout Network, Hampshire Scouts and UK Scout Network are maintained.
- Follow the District's rules on finances.
- Attend and contribute to relevant District and County meetings. These include meetings of the District Executive Committee, District team and may include District Explorer Scout meetings and get togethers with other District Scout Network Commissioners.
- Encourage young people to share their opinions with and get involved with the work of the District Executive and other district teams.
- Develop relationships with other bodies outside of the Scouts who can support Scout Network.

This list is subject to other tasks as agreed by the District Commissioner and some tasks can be delegated to other members of the Scout Network.

## Interested?

We're not into application forms or interviews – that's for jobs and uni, not Scouts.

If you're interested or want to hear more we want to have a chat and see how your plans fit in with what we're looking for. The email you need is

[DC.NewForest@hampshirescouts.org.uk](mailto:DC.NewForest@hampshirescouts.org.uk)

We can also put you in touch with the current District Scout Network Commissioner to see what they do day to day.