



Help our Scouts have their say.

Information for anyone thinking
about being a **District Youth
Commissioner**

YouShape 


Scouts
New Forest

TL;DR

We're looking for young people aged between 14 and 25 to help be the voice of all Scouts in New Forest.

We want people from across the New Forest District to share this task. This gives you more information about this.

Contents:

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

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

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.

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.

The role of District Youth Commissioner, and the team that supports them, is key to this plan in giving a voice to our young people and making that voice heard by our highest volunteers.

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 Youth Commissioner who can be the voice of our young people. This role can be shared and we would love a team to support the Youth Commissioner so we can get the best from all our Scouts.

We want a range of people from different backgrounds, areas of the forest and experiences to get in touch so we can build the best team possible.

The main District Youth Commissioner would ideally be aged 18-25 so they can be a member of our trustee board but the wider team can be anyone aged 14-25.

Responsible to: District Commissioner

Main Contacts: Young people within their District, District Commissioner, other members of the District Team, District Chairperson, members of the District Executive Committee, County Youth Commissioner and other District Youth Commissioners.

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?

Supporting youth-shaped Scouting in the Programme

- Visit Section Meetings to talk and inspire young people about youth-shaped Scouting and what is happening within the District.
- Support Groups and Sections to provide local youth engagement opportunities including forums
- Together with the District Scout Network Commissioner, encourage Scout Network members to shape and lead projects and activities for the District Scout Network.
- Encourage youth leadership at all levels within Groups and Sections (Young Leaders, Sixers & Seconders, Patrol Leaders & Assistant Patrol Leaders etc.)
- Work with volunteers to support Leaders and other adult volunteers to embed youth shaped Scouting.

Developing Young People

- Work with other adults to identify, encourage and develop talented young people and young adults who wish to become more involved in shaping Scouting.
- Provide support to 18-25 year old members on Executive Committees.
- Increase the role and participation of young people in the leadership and management of the District.

Embedding Young People in Local Decision Making

- Work with all members of the District to ensure that the views of young people are represented in decision making.
- Encourage the creation and greater participation in meaningful Youth Forums
- Appoint, support and manage a Youth Forum Lead.
- Ensure that recommendations from the Youth Forum to the District Executive Committee and District Team are considered and appropriately implemented and that an effective method to provide feedback on outcomes to the Youth Forum is in place.

Wider Engagement

- Establish a robust method of communicating with the District Commissioner and young people within the District.
- Work as a key part of the District Leadership Team contributing and taking an active part in the delivery of the District Development Plan.
- Work with the County Youth Commissioner to develop youth-shaped Scouting within the County, providing feedback to adults and young people.
- Work with other local Youth Commissioners to feed into the UK Youth Commissioner Team including taking part in national training and conference opportunities (often virtual).

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