

The Board of Trustees of The Scout Association: a summary of its role, its members and the process for being elected as one of those members

Role of the Board of Trustees

- The Board shapes and approves the strategy of The Scout Association, makes sure that we are taking action to achieve that strategy and ensures that the Association is meeting its legal and financial obligations. It is the Association's national decision-making body.
- The Trustees must act in the best interests of the Association as a whole (even if they are elected by a particular electoral college). They delegate authority for day to day activities to appropriate volunteers and staff.
- The Board meets four times a year (usually, a Saturday at Baden-Powell House, but once a year the meeting is held at Gilwell Park and includes a Friday afternoon and evening session alongside the UKCC's Team and the Association's Senior Leadership Team). In addition, Trustees are expected to attend the Annual General Meeting (**AGM**) and are usually expected to sit on at least one of the Committees which reports into the Board: these meet from 2 – 4 times a year.
- Matters which the Board has recently decided on include, for example, approval of the Youth Shaped Scouting Strategy proposed by the UKYC and her Team and of the 2016/17 business plan and budget. You can read minutes of recent Board meetings [here](#).
- The role of individual Trustees is set out [here](#). Trustees are volunteers and are not paid – although they can claim reimbursement for expenses, in accordance with our Expenses Policy. We give all new Trustees a full induction to the role – along with a mentor for their first year – and all Trustees take part in development sessions before each Board meeting.
- Being a Trustee can be rewarding and enjoyable and is a great way to influence Scouting: see “Need more information” below.

Who are the Members of the Board?¹

- The Board has 19 members:
 - 12 members nominated and elected by the Council of The Scout Association at the AGM: nine elected members * + three elected youth members **
 - Two “ex officio” members: the UKCC and Chief Executive
 - Five members appointed by the Council at the AGM on the recommendation of the Board: the Chair of the Board, the Treasurer and up to three others.
- Information about each of the current Board members can be found [here](#).

*** Elected Members**

- The nine elected members are split across electoral colleges: England South (three members), England North (three members), Scotland (one member), Wales (one member) and Northern Ireland (one member).

¹ POR Chapter 6

- As an elected member you will serve for a period of three years (starting from the AGM on 3 September) and can then choose to stand for election for a second three-year period.

****Elected Youth Members**

- To stand as an elected youth member, you must have passed your 18th birthday before the Nominations deadline (1 July 2016) and be aged 23 years or less at the qualifying date (31 January 2016).
- As an elected youth member, you will serve for a period of three years (starting from the AGM on 3 September). You can then choose to stand for election for a further and final period of up to three years or until such time as you reach your 26th birthday whichever is first.

How do I stand for election?

- This year, we are holding elections for one member in each of England South, England North and Scotland, as well as for one youth member.
- To stand for election you must be:
 - Aged 18+ on 1 July 2016 (see further age requirement for youth members – above)
 - A current member or associate member of The Scout Association
 - Supported in writing by two members of the Council of the Association (see below) and
 - Not disqualified from being a charity trustee by virtue of the Charities Act.
- You need to find two supporters (a “proposer” and a “seconder”) who must both be members of the Council. The list of Council membership can be found [here](#). If you need any help to contact relevant Council members, then you can ask the Governance Team to assist you.
- After you have found a suitable proposer and seconder who have agreed to support you, please go online and complete the candidate information form. You may wish to include a short video (max 1 minute and 10mb) outlining why you want to be a Board member – please upload where indicated on the nominations site.
- We will use the answers you give on the candidate information form (and your proposer’s and seconder’s statements) word for word when we ask Council members to decide who to vote for. Please note that we can’t correct any spelling mistakes or other errors you might have made – so we strongly recommend that you (and your proposer and seconder) print off the draft form and draft statements and check them carefully for grammar and accuracy before you submit them to us.
- Your proposer and seconder each need to submit online written statements (maximum of 60 words each) indicating why they believe that you would make a good Board member. These statements should demonstrate that the proposer and seconder have given serious consideration to your suitability for the role in the light of, amongst other factors, the role description and person specification.

Your candidate information form, and proposer and seconder statements, must be submitted online **no later than 5pm, Friday 1 July 2016.**

What happens next?

- We will let you know as soon as we have a completed nomination for you. We will also ask if you would like to attend the AGM, at which the election results will be announced – although you don't have to attend if you don't want to.
- We will publish your name, along with the answers on your candidate information form and your proposer's and seconder's statements, on our online election website² (along with a link to your video, if you chose to send us one).³
- We will then email a link to that website to all Council members on 15 July, asking them to vote online (unless there is only one validly nominated candidate in any category – in which case that candidate will be taken as elected unopposed). We'll send you the link too so that you can see your entry and also the entries of all other candidates.
- Each Council member can vote for one candidate in each electoral college and for one youth member candidate. Voting closes on 26 August.
- We will announce the names of those elected at the AGM on Saturday, 3 September at Gilwell Park.⁴

Need more information?

- We asked our Chair and some of our other Trustees to tell us why they chose to be Trustees for the Association and what they gain from the role: take a look at this video. [Trustees Elections 2016](#)
- For more information about being a trustee generally, the Charity Commission's [The essential trustee: what you need to know, what you need to do](#) is a good start. And there's also [How to win roles and influence Scouting](#) - aimed particularly at potential elected youth members but with some good pointers for all.
- And of course, if you have any questions about the Trustee role or the election process, please contact the Governance Team at Gilwell Park. Our contact details are below - we're here to help.

Governance Team: Judeth Neville, Margaret Giles, Lisa McDonald, Laura Rooke

Tel: 0208 433 7261

Email: governance@scouts.org.uk

3 May 2016

² Voting is managed for us by independent election scrutineers, Mi-voice Limited.

³ We reserve the right to decline to publish submitted wording in exceptional cases: eg where the wording is or may be libellous. The Board's decision in any such case will be final.

⁴ We don't announce the number of votes cast for each candidate – but this information is available to all candidates, and all Council members, on request to the Charity & Company Secretary.