

MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Be a Trustee

WHAT IS A CHARITY TRUSTEE?

Charity Trustees are volunteers who make some of the most important decisions in Scouting.

They are members of a group known as the Executive Committee and every Scout Group and District has one. The Executive Committee in Scouting is like a board of governors in a school; essentially it makes sure that the best quality Scouting is delivered to young people in the local area.

The volunteers that make up the Committee give their time to ensure that Scouting continues to meet its charitable purpose: safely and legally.

“Being an Executive Committee member is a rewarding and challenging way to support Scouting.”

Derek,
Group Executive
Committee member

Reasons to become an Executive Committee member

1. You will help to support and develop local Scouting, allowing young people in the area to experience fun, friendship and everyday adventure.
2. You will put your existing skills and experience to good use.
3. It's a great way to meet new people.
4. You will learn new skills that could help build your CV, or just add to your experience or confidence in certain areas.
5. Your work will make a difference to young people involved in Scouting locally.



What is the purpose of Scouting?

The purpose is to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

Who can be a member of the Executive Committee?



What are my legal responsibilities?

Being an Executive Committee member carries legal responsibilities that should be understood before taking on the role. You are not expected to be an expert in every area, but are expected to:

- use reasonable care in your work and apply your skills and experience where needed
- act in the best interests of the Scout Group or District and not in your own or others' personal interests
- ask for professional advice when you need it

The Executive Committee you are joining will be able to help explain the responsibilities of the role to you.

Executive Committee members come from all walks of life. Most people can become one, but there are some who are not eligible. This includes:

- Under 18s
- Undischarged bankrupts
- Disqualified company directors

The appropriate charity regulator can provide further guidance and full details on who cannot be a Charity Trustee. (A list of charity regulators can be found on the back page of this leaflet).

How much time will I need to give?



On average, Executive Committee members attend **four to six meetings a year**. The exact amount of time required will depend on the needs of local Scouting. Generally, dates of meetings will be agreed at the start of the year with all Executive Committee

members, giving you the flexibility to say when you are available.

Basic training is provided within the first few weeks of joining an Executive Committee.

A disclosure check will also be undertaken for this role.

In Scotland only Scout Groups and Districts registered with the regulator have Charity Trustees. For unregistered Scout Groups and Districts the Executive Committee should still act with the same duties and responsibilities as Charity Trustees.

What skills or experience do I need?

All Executive Committee members have different skills to offer, come from different backgrounds and have varying experiences. This helps to ensure a variety of perspectives and a more rounded and effective Executive Committee. Skills and experience that can help include:



Teamwork



Problem solving



Legal knowledge



Social skills

Professional, management or business experience



Financial knowledge & experience



Decision making



IT skills

Facilitating

What other skills could you bring to the committee?

How can I become an Executive Committee Member?

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Who is my Charity Regulator?

England and Wales: The Charity Commission for England & Wales
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission>
Scotland: Office for the Scottish Regulator
www.oscr.org.uk

Northern Ireland: The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland
www.charitycommissionni.org.uk

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