



**Join our team to be a public champion for Scouts and help shape our policy**

**Youth Advocate Application Pack**



# Youth Advocates (5 roles)

We are recruiting 5 youth advocates to grow our existing youth advocate team to be champions for Scouts in public affairs and policy environment. These roles will develop skills for life, giving young people aged 18-24 opportunities to share their stories and express their views.

## What is public affairs, policy and youth advocacy?



Public Affairs is engaging with and influencing politicians and decision makers so that they understand Scouts and make public policy decisions that benefit the movement and the young people in it. Policy is developing the ideas that support these people to make their decisions.

We want more young people to be involved with shaping our work so that we are speaking on behalf of the membership and giving opportunities for Scouts to advocate for themselves.

## What opportunities will you have as a youth advocate?

There are many events that take place over the year in the public affairs calendar that you may get the opportunity to attend. Here are some examples:

- **Political Party Conferences** – These are annual meetings where politicians come together to decide on their priorities and shape the political agenda for the coming year. Attending with Scouts, we will be part of the ‘Youth Zone’, an area shared with other youth organisations. Over the course of two days, we will host a roundtable event where you will have an opportunity to speak about your Scouting experiences and talk with MPs one to one.
- **MP meetings** – We hold MP meetings throughout the year to build relationships with decision makers and share Scouts aims and impact. As an advocate, you will get to share your personal story and your views on support that the youth sector and young people need.



“As a Youth Advocate, I have had the opportunity to contribute to the shaping of the Official Scouts Manifesto. I have also had the opportunity to attend and speak at the Conservative Party Conference in Manchester, which was probably the highlight of my role so far.

If you want to be part of a team shaping the future space for young people and you want to have your voice heard, then I recommend applying for the role!” Dan, Youth Advocate

- **Ministerial Roundtables** – These are discussion events hosted by government ministers and usually attended by other young people representing organisations in the youth sector. Again, they are a chance to share your experience and the priorities for young people within Scouting.



*Beth, Youth Advocate, outside of DCMS attending a roundtable event*

- **Youth Sector events/conferences** – These events take place with other youth organisations and will give you an opportunity to feed into conversations that influence national policy.

- **Events hosted by Scouts** – This will differ every year but examples of events include a reception in Parliament to launch research or a dinner to celebrate the growth of Squirrels.

At these events you will have the opportunity to **speak directly to decision makers and tell your story**, reflecting on the impact that Scouts has had on you as well as other relevant experience you have outside of Scouting. You will always be accompanied by a member of the Public Affairs team so we can deliver key messages on Scouts

strategy, goals and campaigning asks.

We will also **consult you on some of our policy development** so you can give your perspective of being involved in Scouting as a young person or a

“My role as a Youth Advocate has helped my confidence to flourish. I have received training in public speaking skills as well as the opportunity to put this into practice by attending events such as Roundtable discussions.” Beth, Youth

volunteer and how changes to public policy could enhance your experience and support the wider movement. This will feed into work that we will do to prepare for an upcoming general election, so that we can ensure young people’s views are heard and represented.

You can read the experiences of our current youth advocates by checking out a blog co-authored by Freya and Ryan [here](#).

We want advocates that represent our whole movement, so would particularly encourage applications from **Black, Asian and ethnic minority** backgrounds, who are currently under-represented in our volunteer structures.

We also want advocates from **all the nations of the United Kingdom**. The HQ Public Affairs team only engages with UK Parliament but we will work with colleagues in Scouts Cymru, Scouts Scotland and Scouts NI to signpost opportunities with your devolved administration if you are not based in England.

## Expression of interest

We’re particularly interested in working with young people who:

- Have never accessed a national youth voice or participation opportunity before, but who are influencing change at a local or regional level.
- Are from Black, Asian, and ethnic minority backgrounds.

To let us know you're interested in getting involved please add your details to this application form and [Equality Monitoring Form](#). If you can't use the online form, get in touch with us using the details below.

The closing date for applications is **09:00 on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May**

On the form you will be able to either submit a written application, or a five-minute video to answer some questions on your motivation and interests. You can also nominate other people who you think would be perfect for the role.

#### **Drop-in Information session:**

To learn more about the role and gain insights from current youth advocates, we will be hosting a 45-minute information session on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 5pm**.

If you are interested in attending, log on to the call here:

<https://zoom.us/j/91348486093?pwd=Y1Axc2p4UTJudGNyb2h5L3ZsQy8xQT09>

Meeting ID: 913 4848 6093

Passcode: a89eb2

If you are unable to attend, please email [Molly.Taylor@Scouts.org.uk](mailto:Molly.Taylor@Scouts.org.uk) who will be happy to have a chat to you before you submit your application.

#### **Selection process**

Once the application window closes, we'll aim to get back to you by **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June** with further information about what happens next.

We will be holding virtual interviews over the **week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> June**. We will work to find a slot that works for you whether that is in the day or the evening.

This will be a chat with other volunteers and staff members to find out more about you, your experience and what you're looking to achieve in the role as well as a chance for you to find out more about the role. We'll also ask you to prepare a short presentation so we can understand what issues you care about.

#### **Further information**

If you would like to discuss the roles in more detail please contact Izzie Inga, UK Deputy Youth Commissioner for Perception, or Molly Taylor, Policy and Public Affairs executive.

[izzie.inga@scouts.org.uk](mailto:izzie.inga@scouts.org.uk)

[Molly.taylor@Scouts.org.uk](mailto:Molly.taylor@Scouts.org.uk)

# Youth Advocate Role Description

<b>Role Purpose:</b>	To be a champion for Scouts in Public Affairs and public policy settings
<b>Appointed by:</b>	UK Policy and Public Affairs Volunteer team leader
<b>Responsible to:</b>	UK Policy and Public Affairs Volunteer team leader
<b>Responsible for:</b>	N/A

- Main contacts:**
- Policy and Public Affairs Executive
  - UK Youth Commissioner
  - UK Commissioner for Perception
  - Policy and Public Affairs Volunteer team

- External contacts:**
- MPs & decision makers
  - Youth representatives and staff from other youth organisations

- Key tasks:**
- Meet MPs and decision makers and telling your Scouts story
  - Attending conferences and sector events to represent the views of Scouts
  - Feeding in to Scouts policy development

- Time commitment:**
- Two training weekends a year at Gilwell Park
  - Hour long peer support video calls every other month
  - We will put other ad-hoc opportunities to the group as they arise but time commitment may include attending a party conference (two days with overnight stay) or travelling to and attending a full day event
  - We will also aim for each advocate to host one MP meeting a year – these may be in person or virtual depending on who the meeting is with

- Terms of appointment:**
- The appointment is for an initial term of 2 years.
  - This is a voluntary role and is unremunerated. However reasonable expenses in line with the Association's Expenses Policy will be paid.

## Person Specification

You will need to be between the ages of 18-24 when applying for this role and a member of the Scout Association. During the selection process you will be asked to demonstrate that you are:

- Someone who is passionate about Scouts and has a great story to tell
- Someone who is comfortable starting conversations with people they haven't met before and open to new situations
- Someone is interested in policy making and the role of government
- Someone who cares about making a positive change in society
- Someone who is willing to get involved in creating youth-shaped content

You **do not** need direct experience of policy or politics as we will select based on interest and enthusiasm.

## Our offer to you

- Training so that you are confident and comfortable carrying out your role
- Development opportunities such as meeting politicians, attending party conferences and youth sector events
- Peer support meetings and ongoing mentoring and support from the public affairs team
- Opportunity to advise and feed into Scouts policy development