



# Not shown are the equipment checkers, minibus mechanics and fundraisers

Becoming a charity trustee



**Scouts**

## Trustees are the decision makers, direction setters and arrangers of the Scouts locally.

They are a dedicated bunch of volunteers known as the Executive Committee and every Scout Group and District has one.

The Executive Committee in Scouts is like a board of governors in a school. Basically it makes sure that the young people get the best possible experience in the local area.

The volunteers that make up the committee give their time to ensure that the Group or District continues to meet its charitable purpose: safely and legally.

They make sure that there's enough money for the volunteers to deliver the programme and that equipment like tents and activity materials are available and safe to use.

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

Derek, District Executive Committee member

## Who can become a trustee?

Trustees 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.

### What does the role involve?

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.

Basic training is provided within the first few weeks of joining an Executive Committee. A disclosure check will also be undertaken for this role.

### 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 locally.

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.

"We're allowing the young people in our town to develop skills for life for years to come by making sure the charity is run well right now."

Aliya, Executive Committee member

### What skills or experience would help?

All Executive Committee members have different skills to offer, come from different backgrounds and have varying experiences. This helps to make sure a wide variety of perspectives and a more rounded and effective Executive Committee is formed.

Everyone can contribute something, but here are some skills and experiences that would really help:

- teamwork
- social skills
- decision making
- computer skills
- financial knowledge and experience
- legal knowledge
- problem solving



### How can I become an Executive Committee Member?

There are a number of ways to become a trustee at the Annual General Meeting. Find out from the local Chair person when the next AGM is.

Your local Chair person is:

\_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Who else can help?

Straightforward training will be available within the first few weeks to help you get to grips with the basics of your role. A Training Adviser will be able to help and support you with this.

Your Training Adviser is:

\_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Others who can help

The local volunteer manager can give you more information about the trustee role.

Your local volunteer manager is:

\_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The Charity regulators are:

- England and Wales: The Charity Commission [www.charitycommission.gov.uk](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk)

- Scotland: Office for the Scottish Regulator [www.oscr.org.uk](http://www.oscr.org.uk)

- Northern Ireland: The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland [www.charitycommissionni.org.uk](http://www.charitycommissionni.org.uk)

## Why become an Executive Committee member?

1. You will help support and develop Scouts locally, allowing young people in the area to develop skills for life.
2. You'll invest your skills and experiences in opportunities for local young people.
3. You can develop your own CV, experiences or confidence while having fun and making new friends.

### More information

Find out more at [scouts.org.uk/join](http://scouts.org.uk/join)

If you have any questions, please contact the Scout Information Centre on [info.centre@scouts.org.uk](mailto:info.centre@scouts.org.uk) or 0345 300 1818



[scouts.org.uk/execcommittees](http://scouts.org.uk/execcommittees)

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