

# THE SCOUT COUNCIL

**A GUIDE FOR COUNTY YOUTH  
COMMISSIONERS  
2018 EDITION**



# THE SCOUT COUNCIL

The Scout Association is governed by the national Scout Council, which is responsible for appointing or electing key members of the Association, for holding the Board of Trustees to account and for approving amendments to our Royal Charter and bye-laws.

At our Annual General Meeting in 2017, County Youth Commissioners were made ex officio members of the Scout Council. This guide is designed to help you understand the structure and responsibilities of the Council. Full details can be found in the Association's bye-laws, and in Chapter 6 of POR. Please note that these rules are subject to change and POR should always be checked for the most up to date information.

## WHO?

The Scout Council consists of ex officio members, nominated members and elected members. In total, the Council must be made up of 400-600 individuals.

### Ex officio members

Ex officio members of the Council are entitled to sit on the Council as part of their role or title in Scouting. As of 2018, the ex officio members of the Council are:

- President - HRH The Duke of Kent
- Chief Scout - Bear Grylls
- Treasurer - Gordon Boyd
- Chief Executive - Matt Hyde
- Chair and Members of the Board of Trustees - Ann Limb (Chair). For further information on the members of the Board, click [here](#)
- Chairs of the Boards of Scouts Scotland, ScoutsCymru and The Scout Association Northern Ireland
- Any Chief Commissioner or National Commissioner
- International Commissioner - Jack Maxton
- UK Youth Commissioner - Hannah Kentish
- County Commissioners
- County Youth Commissioners

### Nominated members and nominated members (18-24 year old)

Each Scout County, Overseas Branch or equivalent may nominate members to the Council, ensuring that the Council is made up of a cross section of the wider Association.

Counties with over 10,000 members are entitled to nominate an additional member as well as a member of between 18 and 24 years old to the Council, per 10,000 (or part of 10,000) members. The table below shows this in more detail:

<10,000 members	One nominated member and one nominated member (18-24)
10,000 – 19,999 members	Two nominated members and two nominated members (18-24)
20,000 – 29,999 members	Three nominated members and three nominated members (18-24)

### Elected members to the Council

To help keep the Scout Council relevant and aligned with the priorities of the wider community, up to 60 individuals or interested stakeholders are also elected to the Council. These members can include, but are not limited to:

- Chief Guide
- Chairs of Board of the Nations
- The Prime Minister and leaders of all main UK political parties
- Religious leaders
- Other national youth bodies such as the National Youth Agency and British Youth Council
- Key members or former members of The Scout Association

# WHY?

Although people may become members of the Council in different ways, all members have the same rights and responsibilities.

## The Annual Report and Accounts

The Scout Council will receive and consider the Annual Report of the Board and the Accounts, which detail The Scout Association's progress against our strategic objectives over the previous year and all financial information. These are sent out before the meeting and members of Council can ask the Treasurer questions either in advance of, or during, the AGM.

Following the AGM, we also typically hold an open, informal session for any member of Council to ask questions, raise concerns or request further information from the Board or Team UK about these reports. Again, questions can be asked in advance.

## Election of elected members of the Council

The elected members of Council have a three-year term, and so each year, a number of these members are re-elected or newly elected by the Council. These elections take place at the AGM itself.

## Appointment of the Chief Scout, the Chair, the Treasurer, and the other appointed members of the Board

The Scout Council is responsible for appointing the Chief Scout (Bear), the Chair (Ann), and the Treasurer (Gordon) and up to three other appointed members of the Board. Appointed members of the Board have a three-year term. Each year, a number of these members are appointed or re-appointed by the Council. In the past, we have appointed members for their expertise in areas such as safeguarding, HR and digital.

## Election of members of the Board

The Board of Trustees manages the day-to-day business of The Scout Association. Members of the Board, also known as Trustees, are elected by the popular vote of the Scout Council. The Council votes in online elections ahead of the AGM, and the results are announced during the AGM. Elections are often hotly contested and highly regarded, so look out for Trustee campaigns over the summer!

The Scout Association's Board of Trustees is made up of nine elected members and three elected youth members. Once elected, a Trustee has a three-year term.

In addition to elected members, the Board of Trustees includes ex officio members, such as the CEO (Matt), the UK Chief Commissioner (Tim) and the UK Youth Commissioner (Hannah).

Please note that a consultation regarding the size and composition of the Board is currently underway and therefore the above is subject to change.

## Bye-law amendments

Any changes to our Royal Charter, bye-laws or other constitutional matters are voted on during the AGM. The unanimous approval, in 2017, to include County Youth Commissioners on the Council, is a good example of the types of amendments that might be made.

# WHEN?

Since 2016, The Scout Association's AGM has been held as part of Gilwell Reunion. Formally, there is also the potential that we will call Ordinary General Meetings to make specific decisions, although this is rare in practice.

There is no cost to attend the AGM itself. We expect your County to contribute towards or reimburse your expenses. If you would like to attend the rest of Reunion, you will need to register and pay for this as usual.



# YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

Membership of the Council means you are trusted and entitled to hold a range of responsibilities to ensure the good governance of our organisation, as set out below.

It is important to note that your responsibilities are individual, not representative. You should therefore carry out any of these duties according to your own individual skill and judgment.

## Proposing nominated members (18-24)

Traditionally, these members are identified and proposed by the County Commissioner, and formally nominated by the County Scout Council at your local AGM. We recommend that nominated members (18-24) are identified and proposed by the County Youth Commissioner, but there is no strict rule or guideline on this, and you should discuss your own practice with your County Commissioner.

To guide this process, you should think of looking for someone with the relevant knowledge, skills and experience to participate in the governance of the Scout Association. This might be someone who has taken an active interest in governance in your local area, represented Scouting in the past or engaged with the wider Movement, for example at a Jamboree.

Once you have identified and approached a potential nominated member (18-24), you need to propose them to your County Scout Council to be approved at your County AGM.

If approved, your appointment secretary should send the name and contact details of your nominated member to the Governance Team at Scout HQ within 28 days of the approval (email [governance@scouts.org.uk](mailto:governance@scouts.org.uk)).

## Actively participating in the AGM

The effective governance provided by the Council relies on your active engagement and participation with the agenda of the AGM. This includes exercising your right to attend, vote and speak at the AGM, whether to scrutinise our Annual Report and Accounts or influence bye-law amendments. You might also be asked to raise questions or comments on behalf of others in your County.

## Electing the Board

A vital part of the Council's governing role is their ability to hold the Board of Trustees to account. This is primarily done by electing and re-electing those most suitable for the role of Trustee, but also by asking questions and challenging the Annual Report at the AGM.



## Contributing to consultations

As the Council is the largest governing body of the Association, it is often a trusted consultative body for key changes to our bye-laws, Royal Charter or other constitutional decisions. Consultations of the Council are usually carried out through online surveys or webinars, and you will be contacted directly whenever these take place.

Consultation about Board size and composition is underway. You should have received an invitation to contribute.

## Formal responsibilities

You also have a range of formal responsibilities to appoint members of Council or the Board, although in practice these will be a minimal part of your role.

If you have any questions about your responsibilities generally please contact the Governance Team ([governance@scouts.org.uk](mailto:governance@scouts.org.uk)) or Emily Au ([emily.au@scouts.org.uk](mailto:emily.au@scouts.org.uk))





# USEFUL TERMS EXPLAINED

<b>AGM</b>	We need to hold an Annual General Meeting every year to receive the Annual Report and Accounts, and carry out any other relevant business in accordance with the Charity Commission's guidelines.
<b>Bye-laws</b>	The bye-laws authorise the making of rules for the regulation of the Association's affairs, and thereby give authority for the Rules printed in Policy, Organisation and Rules.
<b>Ex officio member</b>	Membership of the Council attaches to the role or title that an individual holds. This means that you become a member as soon as you take on a role, and leave the Council when you no longer hold that position.
<b>OGM</b>	Ordinary General Meetings are held between AGMs to deal with specific business. For example, in 2009, we held an OGM to appoint Bear Grylls as the Chief Scout because it was a time-sensitive matter.
<b>Royal Charter</b>	The Scout Association exists by authority of a Royal Charter dating from 1912. The Royal Charter forms the original basis for our governance structure.

