



Preston & District Scouts

District Lead Volunteer Applicant Pack

About us...

Overview of Scouting

We are the UK's biggest mixed youth organisation. We change lives by offering 4 to 25 year olds fun and challenging activities, unique experiences, everyday adventure and the chance to help others so that we make a positive impact in communities.

Scouts helps children and young adults reach their full potential. Our members gain valuable skills for life including teamwork, time management, leadership, initiative, planning, communication, self-motivation, cultural awareness and commitment. We help young people to get jobs, save lives and even change the world.

Preston & District Scouts operates 22 Scout Groups, Explorer Scout and Scout Network provision comprising over 2000 members and growing.

What do Scouts do?

Scouts take part in a wide range of activities as diverse as kayaking, abseiling, expeditions overseas, photography, climbing and zorbing. As a Scout you can learn survival skills, first aid, computer programming or even how to fly a plane. There's something for everyone. It's a great way to have fun, make friends, get outdoors, express your creativity and experience the wider world.

What do volunteers do?

This everyday adventure is only possible thanks to our team of adult volunteers, who support Scouts in a wide range of roles from working directly with young people, to helping manage a local community based Group, to being a charity Trustee. We help volunteers get the most out of their experiences at Scouts by providing opportunities for adventure, training, fun and friendship.

Our award winning training scheme for volunteers means that adults get as much from Scouts as young people. Our approach focuses on what you want to get out of volunteering with Scouts, while respecting how much time you can offer. Over 90% of Scout volunteers say that their skills and experiences have been useful in their work or personal life.

Key facts and figures

The Scout Association is a UK charity founded in 1907 and now boasts a membership of over 620,000 young people and adult leaders. We are the largest mixed youth movement in the UK. Scouting activity is delivered through 7,000-plus community based Scout Groups nationwide.

Scouting is widely recognised and is one of the most trusted charities in the UK, giving it a significant level of influence and responsibility.

Scouting's greatest strength lies in its grass roots. It is locally that Scouting is best able to identify and work directly with young people most in need.

We believe that through the everyday adventure of Scouting, young people and adult volunteers regularly experience new challenges that enrich and change their lives



Our strategy...

By 2025 we will have prepared more young people with skills for life, supported by amazing leaders delivering an inspiring programme. We will be growing, more inclusive, shaped by young people and making a bigger impact in our communities.

Further information on our strategic objectives is provided on our website at www.scouts.org.uk/ourplan

Scouting's Fundamentals

Our mission

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



Our values

As Scouts, we are guided by these values:

- **Integrity**
- **Respect**
- **Care**
- **Belief**
- **Co-operation**

Further information on our fundamentals, including details of our values, are provided on our website at <http://scouts.org.uk/about-us/key-policies/fundamentals-of-scouting/>

Our key policies

In common with all members in Scouting, the Chief Commissioner of Wales is required to promote and follow our key policies. The policies cover:

- **Child Protection**
- **Equal Opportunities**
- **Religion**
- **Safety**

These policies are fully explained on our website at <http://scouts.org.uk/about-us/key-policies/>

About Preston & District Scouts...

Preston & District Scouts is part of West Lancashire Scout County. It is led by the District Lead Volunteer, a District Leadership Team and governed by a Board of Trustees. Preston & District Scouts consists of 22 Scout Groups, 6 Explorer Scout Units and a Scout Network.

Introducing the Leadership Team roles...

We want to make volunteering easier and more fun, so that more people will want to volunteer and our current volunteers will want to stay. Doing this is how we will achieve our North Star - more young people gaining skills for life.

We want flexible volunteering to be a reality. To do this, we're using team descriptions. Unlike role descriptions, where one volunteer takes on specific responsibilities (this can be a barrier for some volunteers joining or staying in Scouts), this approach means we can share the load among the team.

We're making it clear that volunteers can get involved with just the tasks that work for their skills, interests and free time. Teams can decide how to split the tasks up, according to who's in the team and what the local needs are.

Our new approach makes it easier for our current teams, as volunteers can give their time in a more sustainable way. It helps volunteers build knowledge, experience, and confidence. And it makes it easier for them to change their involvement when their circumstances change. As such, they stay volunteering for longer. And in the future, more volunteers will want to join Scouts and give their time as part of a flexible team.

We are now looking to recruit a District Lead Volunteer (formerly known as District Commissioner)

The District Lead Volunteer will lead the District Leadership Team and ensure that everyone is working together to achieve the same goals. They will support Group Scout Leaders and the 14-25 provision within the District, and be a member of the Board of Trustees.

We are looking for a Lead Volunteer who can build teams, delegate and communicate effectively. The Lead Volunteer will lead the District Leadership Team and therefore will need to have good people skills, be able to delegate, manage change and motivate other volunteers.

A mentor, training, and ongoing support will help you to be successful in role.

What leading a team means...

Lead Volunteers work with Team Members to share tasks out and make sure the team runs smoothly.

Create a positive team environment

- Agree how Team Description tasks are shared among Team Members by considering their skills, interests, and availability.
- Make sure the team puts young people at the heart of what they do, so they can create inspiring teams and brilliant programmes.
- Make sure the team is open and inclusive, and adapt team activities and tasks to be accessible to everyone.
- Make sure everyone in the team is safe and following safety and safeguarding procedures.

Help volunteers find what they need

- Help Team Members find learning and networking opportunities.
- Encourage Team Members to share what's happening in the team and find out where they might need support.
- For Lead Volunteers in Districts and Counties, make sure volunteers have the permits or accreditations they need to carry out specific, allocated tasks (where relevant).

Attract and welcome new volunteers

- Help recruit new volunteers (with the Leadership Team and Volunteering Development Team) so there's always enough people in the team.
- Make sure new volunteers are warmly welcomed and complete their learning.

Reflect and review

- Set up regular team self-reviews (at least once a year) to give everyone a chance to reflect on successes, and plan for the future.
- Carry out individual reviews with each Team Member. For Section Teams, they're held by a member of the Group Leadership Team (for Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts) or 14-24 Team (for Explorers).

District Leadership Team

Purpose

The District Leadership Team leads and inspires volunteers to give young people great experiences and skills for life. They make sure their District teams are organised, have enough volunteers, and can deliver a great programme.

Who's in the team

- District Lead Volunteer
- District Youth Leads
- Programme Team Leader
- Volunteering Development Team Leader
- Support Team Leader
- Group Lead Volunteers

Tasks for the whole team

Make sure teams across the District:

- Work well on their own (and together).
- Are inclusive and reflect the demographics of their local area.
- Have the resources, skills and enthusiasm to deliver the Scouts strategy
- Volunteers in the District's teams have the skills and experience to fulfil their safety and safeguarding responsibilities, including by keeping up to date with changes, and being aware of safety and safeguarding concerns in the County.
- Volunteers are aware of [Our Volunteering Culture](#), reflect on it, commit to it, and apply it in their teams.

Allocated tasks

- Help with recruitment for the District Trustee Board Chair, District Team Leaders, District Youth Lead and Group Lead Volunteer roles.
- The District Youth Lead works with teams across the District to make sure they're shaped by young people.

Other responsibilities

Make sure [safeguarding](#), [safety](#) and [data](#) incidents and [complaints](#) are managed well. The Lead Volunteer will be responsible for responding to these, or for [appointing someone else](#) in the County to do this.

How to apply

Key dates

The closing date for applications is **Thursday 16th November at midday** with shortlisting and discussions with candidates to follow soon after.

We hope the new candidate can take up post on the 1st January 2024.

Process

Applications / Nomination

We will accept both self-nominations and nominations of others using this short online form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/0i3R1pAZ03>

Selection process

All applications for Lead Volunteer will be reviewed by a small team led by the District Chair in conjunction with the County Commissioner / Lead Volunteer for the County. The new lead volunteer will take the lead in appointing the new team leader roles.

Further information

For an informal discussion please contact Craig Dewar-Willox County Commissioner –

craig.dewar@westlancsscouts.org.uk

Finally

Thank you for considering the District Lead Volunteer role. This is a hugely rewarding role and we are grateful to you for taking the time to consider volunteering your time in this way.