



Avon Scouts Board of Trustees

A summary of its role, its members and the process for being nominated/elected as one of those members.

Role of the Board of Trustees

Avon Scouts Board of Trustees is a team of volunteers who work together, as charity Trustees, to make sure the Avon Scouts is being run safely and legally. At the heart of their role is a focus on strategy, performance and assurance.

The Trustee Board must act in the charity's best interests, acting with reasonable care and skill and take steps to be confident that:

- a. The charity is:
 - well managed
 - carrying out its purposes for the public benefit
 - complying with the charity's governing document and the law
 - managing the charity's resources responsibly
- b. The charity is operating compliant with POR.
- c. Young people are meaningfully involved in decision making at all levels.
- d. There are sufficient resources (funds, people, property and equipment) available to meet the planned work of the County including delivery of the high-quality programme and resource requirements of the training programme
- e. That Avon Scouts has a positive image in the local community.

The Board meets formally at least 4 times in each year (although there is also a possibility of extraordinary meetings being scheduled throughout the year). Meetings take place in the evenings and are usually held at Woodhouse Park the Counties Activity Centre. In addition, Trustees are expected to attend the Counties Annual General Meeting (AGM) and are encouraged to sit on at least one of the sub-Committees which reports into the Board; these sub committees meet from 3-4 times a year.

Trustees are volunteers and are not paid – although they can claim reimbursement for expenses.

All new Trustees receive a full induction to the role and all Trustees receive ongoing support, development and training.

Being a Trustee can be rewarding and enjoyable and is a great way to influence local Scouting.

Further details on the role of a trustee and an overview of Avon Scouts can be found at [Avon Trustee Info Pack](#)

Who are members of the Board?

The Avon Scouts board of trustees currently has up to 22 members as follows:

6 members nominated and elected by the Avon County Scout Council at the AGM

Four “ex officio” members: : the Chair of the Board, The County Lead Volunteer, The County Youth Lead and the County Treasurer

Up to six members appointed by the Council at the AGM on the recommendation of the County Lead Volunteer. Note the number of nominated members must not exceed the actual number of elected members.

Up to six members co-opted annually by the County Trustee Board. Note the number of co-opted members must not exceed the actual number of elected members.

* Elected Members

Members of the county board of trustees are elected for a three-year term. To enable continuity, members are elected on a rolling basis. Every year two members are elected. Any member standing down at the end of his or her term may stand for re-election and if re-elected may serve a second three-year term

Should any elected member resign before completing their three-year term the vacancy may be filled by election to complete that three-year term at the next AGM.

An elected member may serve a maximum of two terms consecutively. Any former elected member may re-stand for election after a break of one year after the end of two years continuous service.

Nominating a Candidate

Avon Scouts are looking to ensure that its board of trustees consists of individuals who will provide a wide and diverse range of knowledge and experience. We know that across the County we have many talented members and supporters but it's our current members that can really bring those individuals to our attention. We therefore would encourage you to consider nominating individuals (with their agreement) who you believe could help the County develop Scouting across the Avon area.

As an inclusive organisation Avon Scouts welcomes everybody regardless of gender, race or background and are therefore looking to ensure that the Boards membership is reflective of the diverse areas that we serve. A recent review of the current board membership identified that the Board would especially benefit from new board members as follows:

Individual Members

Young People – Aged 18 -25

Females
Members of the LGBT community

Individuals with expertise

Law
HR

Whereas a result of recent changes we are currently under-represented on the Board. This is to ensure continued diversity of thought and a wide spread of knowledge and experience across our board membership.

Individuals who are nominated do not need to be current active members of the Scout movement but must be willing to accept the Scout Association's policies.

In line with the constitution of Avon Scouts candidates who are nominated for election to the County Board of Trustees will need to be proposed and seconded by a member of the County Scout Council.

If you would like to nominate an individual (with their agreement) but are not a current member of the County Scout Council, please contact your District Commissioner who will be able to confirm the individuals who are the district representatives to the County Scout Council so that you can seek their agreement to propose/second on your behalf.

How do I stand for election?

This year, we are holding elections for 5 members of the Board of Trustees

2 positions to be elected to 2026
2 positions to be elected to 2024
1 position to be elected to 2025

To stand for election to the Avon Scouts Board of Trustees you must be:

- Aged 18+ on 4th August 2023
- Supported by two supporters (a proposer and seconder) who must be members of the Avon Scouts County Scout Council
- Not disqualified from being a charity trustee by virtue of the Charities Act.

After you have found a suitable proposer and seconder who have agreed to support you, please go online and complete the nomination form.

We will use the answers you give on the nomination form (and your proposer's and seconder's statements) word for word when we ask Council members to decide who to vote for. Please note that we can't correct any spelling mistakes or other errors you might have made.

Your proposer and seconder each need to submit online written statements (maximum of 60 words each) indicating why they believe that you would make a good Board member. These statements should demonstrate that the proposer and seconder have given serious consideration to your suitability for the role in the light of, amongst other factors, the role description and person specification.

Your nomination form, and proposer and seconder statements, must be submitted online **no later than noon, 14th August 2023**

[Avon Scouts BOT Nomination Form](#)

What happens next?

We will let you know when we have a completed nomination for you. We will also ask if you would like to attend the AGM, where the election results will be announced.

Ahead of the AGM members of the Avon County Scout Council will be asked to vote on the candidates that are standing for election. The results of which will be announced at the AGM. We don't announce the number of votes cast for each candidate only whether they have been appointed or not.

Appointments to the board will be based on the votes cast with the two scheduled 3-year term appointments being filled with the candidates with the most votes. Where appointments to the board are necessary to fill vacancies that have occurred outside the normal 3-year term (either for a two year or one year term) these will be filled in line with the election results rankings.

An election will only take place where there are more than two candidates standing. In instances where there is only two validly nominated candidates the candidates will be taken as being elected unopposed.

Questions?

if you have any questions about the Trustee role or the election process, please contact the County Administrator. Our contact details are below- we're here to help.

Email: Office@avonscouts.org.uk
