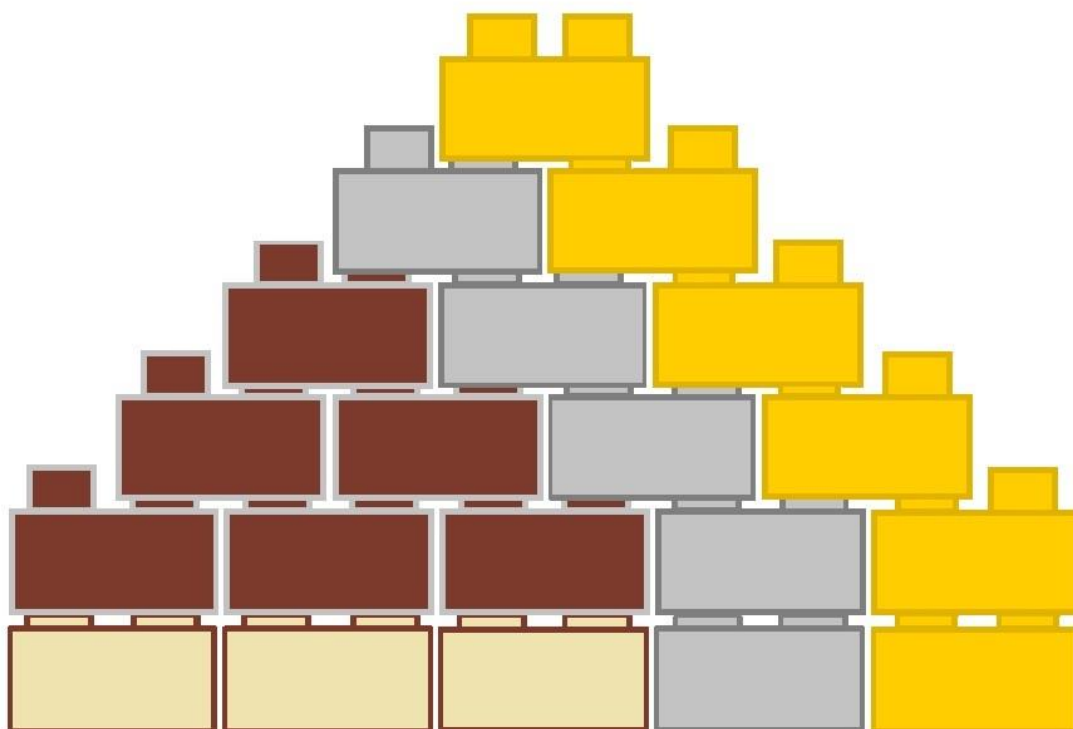


Youth Approved

www.scouts.scot/youthapproved



Scouts Scotland is a registered Scottish Charity No. SC017511

Welcome to Youth Approved



We are proud to launch our brand new Youth Approved Award, which sets standards for youth involvement that allow you to benchmark where you are, and celebrate the work you have done, while also identifying areas for improvement.

We all know how important youth involvement is to ensure that our youth members are getting the very best experiences in Scouting, and most of us are already incorporating this into our programmes, plans, and structures. This award helps us all to celebrate these successes and gives us a structure for improving in the future.

The Youth Approved Award has four different levels: Foundation, Bronze, Silver, and Gold, which are progressive in nature and help you to aspire towards a Scouting experience that is shaped by young people in partnership with adults.

The Youth Approved Award is a four-sided pyramid. Each side represents group, district, region, and country levels, because to be truly youth shaped, youth involvement needs to be embraced at all levels.

The strongest pyramids have solid foundations, and that is where it all starts for Scout groups, districts, regions, and Scouts Scotland Headquarters. By completing just three requirements, you can shout loud and proud that you support youth involvement, and are committed to involving young people in leadership and decision making at all levels of Scouting in Scotland.

After that, each layer is different to recognise the different responsibilities of Scout groups, districts, regions and the country. Young people decided the order of the layers based on the responsibilities that they felt were most relevant to them.

This pack includes the requirements for the Foundation Youth Approved, Bronze Youth Approved, and Silver Youth Approved. You can expect Silver Gold Youth Approved to follow soon.

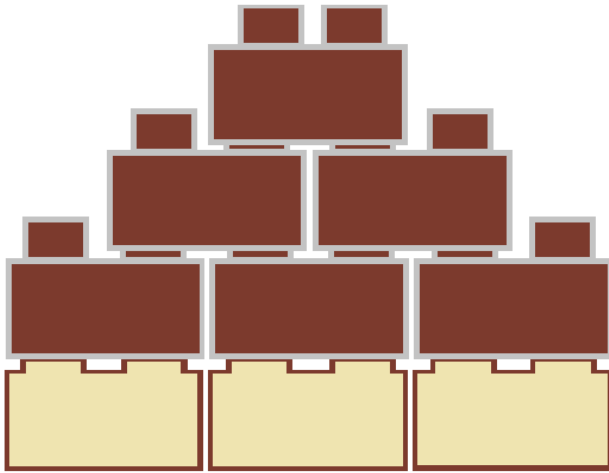
Once you have completed the Foundation Youth Approved requirements, the Bronze Youth Approved Award can be achieved by completing a further six challenges, and so on. The challenges are tailored to each level of Scouting and have different themes, including programme and activities, peer leadership, and training.

Youth members will be responsible for the assessment of Youth Approved Awards through our various Youth Advisory Groups, and interim arrangements will be made where these haven't yet been set up.

When you feel that you have met the requirements for a Youth Approved Award, you can apply via Scouts Scotland Headquarters using an online form and we will ensure the correct group gets it. Typically, the District Youth Advisory Group will assess Scout Groups (and its sections); the Regional Youth Advisory Groups will assess districts, and so on.

The Youth Approved Award will support adults and young people at all levels to provide meaningful youth involvement to Scouts in Scotland and enhance the fun and exciting programme delivered across the country.08

Foundation



Sections

1. Have a method of communicating with youth members (via parents where applicable)
2. Operate a peer-leadership system e.g. lodges, sixes or patrols
3. Offer a sectional forum e.g. Log Chew to hear youth member opinions

Districts

1. Operate a District Youth Advisory Group
2. Elect a District Youth Commissioner (Chair of District Youth Advisory Group)
3. Have a method of communicating with youth members

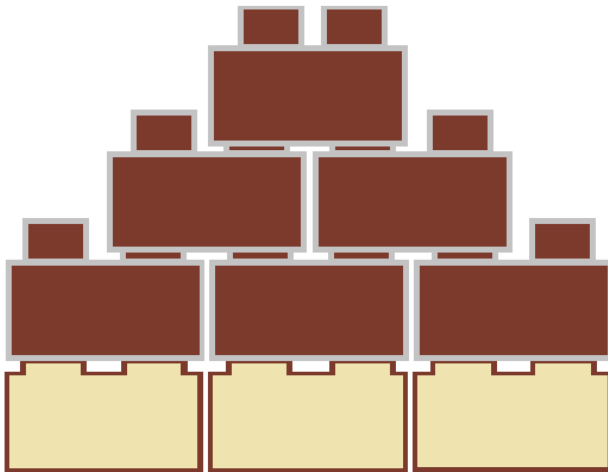
Regions

1. Operate a Regional Youth Advisory Group
2. Elect a Regional Youth Commissioner (Chair of Regional Youth Advisory Group)
3. Have a method of communicating with youth members

Country

1. Operate a National Youth Advisory Group
2. Elect a National Youth Commissioner (Chair of National Youth Advisory Group)
3. Have a method of communicating with youth members

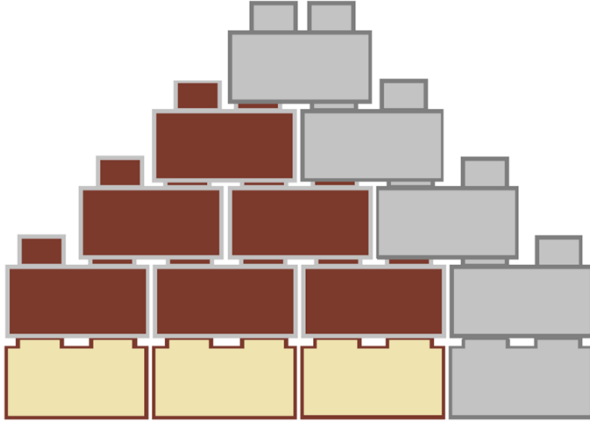
Bronze



Sections	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Youth members are consulted about programme ideas and programme is published and accessible 2. Youth members are advised on badges available to them 3. Youth members are consulted on Nights Away opportunities and able to contribute to planning 4. Peer leaders - e.g. sixers or patrol leaders - are able to run activities planned by leaders 5. The Teamwork Challenge Badge or Leadership Activity Badge is incorporated into the programme* 6. Adults access resources to aid youth involvement and in support of Young Leader Scheme
Groups	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Scout Group can achieve Bronze Youth Approved by helping all Sections within their Scout Group to achieve their Foundation and Bronze requirements
Districts	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Youth members are consulted on activities and camps organised by District 2. Youth members have effective access to Adventurous Activity Permits 3. Young Leaders have access to quality training to learn skills of leadership 4. District communications are accessible to youth members 5. Youth members are advised of areas of development and encouraged to contribute 6. Getting Started training for adults emphasises importance of youth involvement
Regions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opportunities are provided for youth members to gain Adventurous Activity Permits 2. Training is provided to allow youth members to access Explorer Belts & Scouts of the World Award 3. Adult training - e.g. Module 12B - emphasises importance of youth involvement 4. Views of young people in all Districts are represented at Regional Youth Advisory Group 5. Youth members are advised of areas of development and encouraged to contribute 6. Region communications are accessible to youth members
Country	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All SHQ Commissioner Support Teams have members aged 18-25 2. Scout Network consulted on opportunities offered by SHQ 3. Feedback is sought from youth members following national events 4. Feedback is sought from youth members following stays at National Activity Centres 5. National Activity Centres consult youth members on proposed activities, programmes and camps 6. Young Spokesperson training and Youth Involvement workshops are offered annually

For Scout Network members, equivalent leadership and teamwork activities can be considered.

Silver



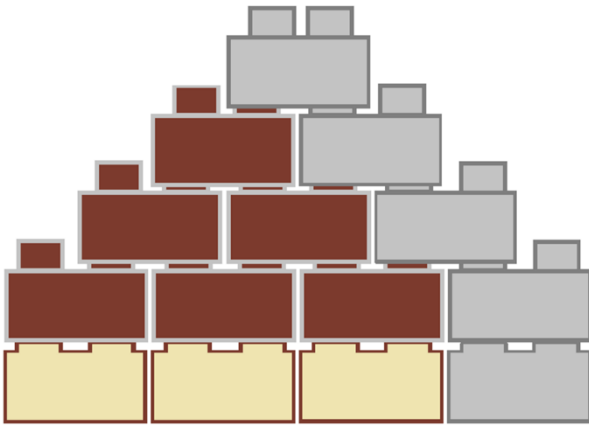
Groups

1. All sections in the group have Bronze Youth Approved.
2. The Scout Group seeks feedback from young people on the quality of the programme offered by all sections and acts upon this feedback to provide a youth shaped programme.
3. The Scout Group have Young Leaders helping in one or more of its sections.
4. Adult volunteers mentor Young Leaders to run parts of the programme to assist achievement of Young Leader Scheme Missions.
5. The Group Scout Leader (or equivalent) involves young people in the training and induction of adults new to scouting.

Districts

1. Have an ADC (Youth Involvement) in post who has a plan to run and develop a Youth Advisory Group.
2. The District seeks feedback on the quality of programme experience offered by the District and acts upon this feedback to provide a youth shaped programme.
3. Young People are invited to create content for communication methods used by the District AND areas of development for the District are shared with and influenced by Young People and targets set accordingly.
4. The District regularly delivers Ongoing Learning – Young Leader training for adults working with Young Leaders to understand the scheme and get the best from them.
5. The District Appointments Advisory Committee include Young People (18-25).

Silver



Regions

1. Have an ARC (Youth Involvement) who has a plan to run and develop a Youth Advisory Group.
2. The Region offers training targeted at encouraging and developing Training Advisors aged under 25 within the Region.
3. The ARC (Youth Involvement) should meet with ADC (Youth Involvement) at least twice a year and the outcomes of this should be communicated with the RYAG and DYAGs.
4. Young People are invited to create content for communication methods used by the Region.
5. The Regional Appointments Advisory Committee include Young People (18- 25).

Country

1. National Youth Advisory Group has a Communications sub-group available to support and youth approve new forms of national communications and content aimed at young people.
2. All commissioner work plans are designed and delivered in partnership with young people.
3. Events held at National Activity Centres have young people involved in the planning and running the event.
4. Areas of development for the country are shared with and influenced by young people on the NYAG and targets are set accordingly, and SHQ Commissioners (Youth Involvement) meet at least twice per year with ARC (Youth Involvement), Regional Youth Commissioners & National Youth Commissioner.
5. The SHQ Appointments Advisory Committee include Young People (18-25).

Youth Approved



Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

What is an Assistant District (Regional) Commissioner (Youth Involvement)?

In Scotland, all Districts and Regions are encouraged to appoint an Assistant District (Regional) Commissioner (Youth Involvement) to support all members of the District or Region to have better youth involvement and help shape Scouting through partnerships of adults and young people.

An Assistant District (Regional) Commissioner (Youth Involvement) is appointed by the District or Regional Commissioner and is subject to the adult appointments process. The adult can be aged 18+ with no upper limit as this appointment is about getting the right person for the role.

What is a Youth Advisory Group?

In Scotland, all Districts, Regions and the country are encouraged to set up a Youth Advisory Group, which is a group of Explorer Scouts, Scout Network, and a selection of adults that provides a platform for young people to discuss matters important to them, and a means for the outcome to be acted on. The number of young people will vary between Advisory Groups and the set-up will vary too.

What is a District (Regional) Youth Commissioner?

In Scotland, the members of the Youth Advisory Group – young people and adults in partnership – are empowered to choose one of the youth members to become their Youth Commissioner, who will represent them and have responsibility for chairing and co-ordinating the work of the Youth Advisory Group.

The Youth Commissioner can be an Explorer Scout or Scout Network, and aged between 14 and 25. This is **not** an appointment as the Youth Commissioner is elected by the Youth Advisory Group rather than by the District or Regional Commissioner.

If the Youth Commissioner is aged 18+, they can be recorded on Compass as a Chair of Youth Advisory Group, which will allow them to get youth involvement communications similar to Youth Commissioners elsewhere in the UK.

What is the difference between a Youth Commissioner in Scotland and the rest of the UK?

In Scotland, a Youth Commissioner is elected by the Youth Advisory Group and can be an Explorer Scout or Scout Network member. It is not an appointment and does not require a PVG membership, adult appointments process, or completion of a Wood Badge. Whereas a Youth Commissioner elsewhere in the UK is appointed by the District or County Commissioner, must be aged between 18 and 25, is an adult appointment and subject to a criminal record check, the appointments process, and completion of a Wood Badge.

Where can I get further support?

Support on how to set up and establish a Youth Advisory Group and detailed role descriptions for an Assistant District (Regional) Commissioner (Youth Involvement) or Youth Commissioner are available from Scouts Scotland. Visit our website at www.scouts.scot/youthapproved or email hello@scouts.scot for more information.