

PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FAO: LOCAL REPORTERS

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DAVID TORRANCE MSP PREPARES TO BE SCOUT YOUTH ADVOCATE
KIRKCALDY MSP & SCOUT LEADER HOPES TO ENCOURAGE MORE MSPS TO TAKE PART



David Torrance MSP is taking up the challenge to complete the new Scouts Scotland 'Youth Advocacy Award'. The award celebrates and highlights MSPs who are raising issues related to young people within the Scottish Parliament.

In the same way that Scouts earn their badges, the MSP for the Kirkcaldy Constituency will earn the award by completing a number of tasks chosen by young people in Scouting to help MSPs experience and understand the life changing opportunities that the Scouts offer.

David Torrance MSP has been a member of the Scouting movement 1969, and has been a Leader of the 5th Fife Scout group in the Kirkcaldy since 1979. He has also previously held the position of Assistant District Commissioner for the Kirkcaldy District. David now hopes that more MSPs will come forward and take part in earning the 'Youth Advocacy Award'.

Since first becoming an MSP in 2011, David Torrance MSP has invited local Scout groups to visit the Scottish Parliament, and gave a speech on Scouting to Parliament during a debate marking the 100th Anniversary of the Cub Scouts in November 2016. He is also intending to take a Scout group on a tour of the Scottish Parliament soon.

Commenting, David Torrance MSP said:

“I’m delighted to be taking part in the Scouts Scotland Youth Advocacy Award.

“I can say from many years of personal experience that Scouting makes a huge difference to young people in the Kirkcaldy Constituency. It helps them contribute to the community and develop really important skills for life.

“I’m really looking forward to working with local Scouts to earn my badge, and am calling on my MSP colleagues to do the same. It is an incredibly rewarding experience to get involved with local Scout groups.”

Tudor Westwood, Chair of the National Youth Advisory Group for Scouts Scotland said:

“The exciting thing is that this badge encourages politicians to see and engage with, first-hand, the extraordinary work Scouts Scotland does every single day in Scotland. Our Scouts are active citizens and I believe this advocacy award will help to inspire more of our young people to engage with democracy and work towards social change.”

The award is designed to give more politicians a greater insight into the work that Scouts Scotland is undertaking week in week out in Scotland.

As the largest volunteer-led mixed youth movement in Scotland, Scouts Scotland support nearly 40,000 young people to enjoy new adventures, experience the outdoors, interact with others and gain confidence.

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

In order to earn the ‘Youth Advocacy Award’, MSPs must complete 4 out of 7 requirements: visit a local Scout group, raise issues relating to young people in the Parliament or in the Media, take a Scout group on a tour of the Scottish Parliament, engage with a Scouts Scotland Youth Advisory Group, attend a Scouts Scotland event and take part in activities, learn a skill or visit a Scouts National Activity Centre.

This award was designed in partnership with young people who sit on the Scouts Scotland National Youth Advisory Group. The National Youth Advisory Group (NYAG) and are in the

process of setting up local youth advisory groups across Scotland. These groups will be vital in ensuring that Scouting is led by young people in partnership with adults.

The award can be earned over an MSP's five-year term in the Scottish Parliament, and any of the requirements earned before the award was launched all count towards achieving the badge.

On completion of the award MSPs will be presented with a pin badge and a certificate.

More information on Scouts Scotland can be found at www.scouts.scot.

For further information, please contact Scouts Scotland's Media and Public Affairs Officer Alex James on 01383 419073 or 07498 997 586 or email alex.james@scouts.scot.

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