

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FAO: LOCAL REPORTERS

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DAVID TORRANCE FIRST MSP TO COMPLETE YOUTH ADVOCACY BADGE

ENCOURAGES OTHER MSP'S TO TAKE PART IN THE CHALLENGE



Scout Scotland held their Awards Day at Dynamic Earth on Sunday (11th June) to celebrate their top awards and volunteers. The event also hosted the presentation of the Youth Advocacy Award to David Torrance MSP, the first MSP to complete the challenge.

The award highlights and recognizes MSP's who are raising issues related to young people within the Scottish Parliament, giving them greater insight and understanding of the work carried out by Scout Scotland.

Since 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 has also most recently given a Scout group a tour of the Scottish Parliament, attended a District Camp, promoted the Youth Advocacy Award in the media and joined in the fun at the National Centre in Fordell Firs.

Commenting David Torrance MSP said;

“I am delighted to have achieved the Scouts Scotland Youth Advocacy Award.

“I have been involved with Scouting for many years, so I understand how rewarding the experience can be and how it helps young people to build character and confidence.

“I would encourage my MSP colleagues to take up the challenge and find how for themselves what an amazing organisation Scout Scotland is.”

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.

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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 are 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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