First Sea Lord Scout

Application guidance for 2027

Applications and references must be received by 10pm on Friday 23 October 2026.



Role activity: certificate presentation

The First Sea Lord Scout represents young people in Sea Scouting and takes part in national events through the Royal Navy partnership. This guide explains the role and helps you prepare your application.

You will have opportunities to meet other young people and help their voices be heard. Being willing to listen matters more than being the most confident speaker.

THE IMPORTANT BIT

This is a Scouting ambassador role, not an application to join the Royal Navy. You'll have adult support, training and opportunities to develop your confidence.

SPEAK UP	SHOW UP	STEP UP
Share young people's ideas and experiences.	Represent Scouts at special occasions.	Grow your confidence and leadership skills.

Who can apply

Applicants must be active Explorer Scouts involved in Sea Scouting, from an RN Affiliated Group.

They must have at least 12 months of active Sea Scout membership.

They must be aged 15–17 throughout 2027.

Applicants need the support of a parent or carer and an appropriate local Scout volunteer.

Scouts

What the role involves

You will attend events on behalf of Scouts and explain what Sea Scouting means to young people. You will also listen to Scouts beyond your own Unit or friendship group, then work with adults to share their views fairly.



Provisional programme for 2027

The successful applicant is expected to attend six principal engagements during 2027.

Engagement	When	Where
Investiture and training weekend	January	Portsmouth and London
Mountbatten Festival of Music	March	London
RN May Camp	May half term	Gosport
Cadet Fest	October	Portsmouth
Trafalgar Day Parade and Wreath Laying	October / November	London
Admiralty Carol Service	December	London

Dates, venues and activities are provisional and may change because of Royal Navy operations, security, weather or event planning. Further official engagements may be offered.

Making time for the appointment

The principal locations are Portsmouth, London and Gosport. Some engagements may require travel the day before, an overnight stay or a full weekend. Discuss the commitments with your parent or carer, Scout volunteer and school, college or employer. Declare known clashes or support needs; a clash does not automatically rule you out if it can reasonably be resolved.

Scouts

Preparing your application

Use your own words. Choose examples that show what you did, why it mattered and what you learned. Helping someone in your Unit or solving a small problem can give you just as much to write about as holding a formal leadership role.

Using STAR to explain an example

STAR gives you a simple way to tell the story without missing the useful details.

Situation Briefly explain what was happening.

Task Say what needed doing and what your part was.

Action Describe what you did. Be specific about your contribution, even if you were working in a team.

Result Explain what happened afterwards and what you learned. If something did not work, say what you would do differently.

Choosing what to write about

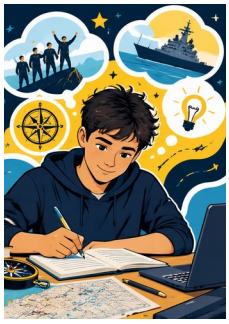
- Think of a time you helped someone, improved something or kept going when it was difficult.
- Explain your part. “We did” describes the team; “I did” helps the reader understand your contribution.
- Show how you would listen to young people with different experiences and views.
- Choose a few clear examples rather than listing every award or activity.

A starting point

Instead of writing “I am a good leader”, start with a real moment: “I noticed a new Scout was struggling, so I…” Explain what you did next, how the Scout responded and what you learned from it. Use a situation that happened to you.

Getting help

A parent, carer or volunteer can explain a question, help with access needs or check spelling. The ideas and answers should still be yours. Read the finished application aloud to check that it sounds like you.



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Your written answers

Your answers must be your own work. Adults may explain the questions, help with accessibility and check spelling, but must not write or substantially rewrite your answers. Assessment focuses on evidence and potential, not polished writing.

1 Why would you like to serve as the First Sea Lord's Cadet representing Scouts, and what would you contribute to the role?

2 Tell us about a time when you led, helped or encouraged other people. What did you do, and what difference did it make?

3 What are the most important opportunities or challenges facing young people in Scouting? How would you gather and represent views outside your own Group or Unit?

4 What is your understanding of the RN Affiliated Sea Scouts and how can you help contribute to the offer?

5 If selected, what would you do during your appointment to make the role useful and visible to other young people in Scouts?

6 Relevant activities and contribution

List relevant Scout activities, responsibilities, awards, qualifications or contributions at school, work, home or in the community. Applicants are not assessed simply by counting awards.

Prepare these answers for the online application form. This guide is not the application form.

Scouts

Submitting your application

Applications and references must be received by 10pm on Friday 23 October 2026.

Your supporting reference

Ask your Section Leader or Group Lead Volunteer to complete the Local Volunteer Endorsement and Reference Form. They will confirm your eligibility and provide a short supporting reference. Referees may be contacted to confirm your active involvement in your Group.

Upload the completed reference form with your written answers when you submit the online application. Arrange this in advance so both your application and reference arrive before the deadline.

Download the Local Volunteer Endorsement and Reference Form

Open the online application

Availability and practical support

The application also asks you to explain your availability and any support that would help you take part. Prepare answers to these questions:

1 Are there any educational, examination, employment, faith, health, disability, caring or family commitments that may affect your attendance?

2 What reasonable adjustments or practical support might help you participate fully?

3 Are you able to travel within the UK and stay away from home with appropriate arrangements and consent?

4 Have you discussed these provisional commitments with your parent or carer and your school, college or employer?

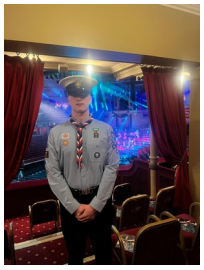
If you need application support or want to discuss a possible clash, contact info@rnseascouts.org.uk before applying. Declare known conflicts and support requirements in your application.

Support during the year

The RN Sea Scout team will try to support travel arrangements where possible, working with the RN Cadet Forces on adult supervision during events. Previous First Sea Lord Scouts will also provide support and advice. Ambassadors should maintain high standards of appearance; the Scheme will provide elements of additional uniform.

Scouts

Selection and support



Role activity: Mountbatten Festival of Music

The selection journey

1 APPLY	2 REVIEW	3 MEET
Complete the official form in your own words.	Names are removed and at least two assessors independently score each eligible application against the published criteria.	Scores are moderated and shortlisted applicants take part in a consistent interview.

A panel then recommends the successful applicant and a reserve. Applicants are told privately before any public announcement.

Support during the appointment

Tell the organisers about any support you need with travel, accessibility, disability, faith, caring responsibilities or other circumstances. Support needs are not scored competitively. An applicant must not be disadvantaged because an event is inaccessible and reasonable adjustments have not been provided. Consent and safeguarding arrangements are organised separately for each event.

Before you press submit

- Check your eligibility and submit your application and reference by 10pm on Friday 23 October 2026.
- Talk to your parent or carer and a local Scout volunteer.
- Check likely commitments with your school, college or employer.
- Be open about possible clashes and what would help you take part.
- Read your answers back: do they sound like you?

Questions and further information

RN Sea Scouts: info@rnseascouts.org.uk
Safeguarding: safeguarding@rnseascouts.org.uk
Website: rnseascouts.org.uk

For photos and updates from the appointment, visit the official Instagram account.

@firstsealordcadet_vcc_ccf_rnss