

Scottish Youth Parliament Election - Candidate Exercises

Candidate Short Exercise 1

Now that you've registered your details, it's time to show us what it is that makes you tick - what is your passion?

What we're looking for is a short submission based on the topic which makes you want to scream and shout, and it can be on anything you want. Whether it's a massive global issue like nuclear weapons or a local one like your corner shop banning school pupils, we just want you to demonstrate the passion that we want to see in MSYPs.

WHAT CAN YOU SUBMIT?

- A written report (no more than 500 words)
- A video (no more than two minutes long)
- An audio recording (no more than two minutes long)

If you've got another suggestion, please speak to your **Named Election Coordinator**.

This should be submitted to your **Named Election Coordinator**, but contact us on hello@syp.org.uk if you have any problems.

A FEW POINTS TO REMEMBER

- The Scottish Youth Parliament is non-party political, so your piece shouldn't outline your belief in one party or another.
- We are all about changing things for young people, so you should highlight things which are issues young people face and/or propose solutions.
- Passion, commitment and determination are being assessed here, not spelling and grammar. You can seek assistance to complete this exercise.

Note: The piece you submit isn't your official manifesto for the election and we won't let anyone else see it unless you give us permission. We just want to make sure that at the very beginning of the election process you're already thinking about the key part of an MSYP's role - taking the issues young people feel strongly about and doing something about it.

After you've sent in your submission, you should then complete the final part of the registration process, "Your Role", which is just a quick look at the role of an MSYP to make sure you understand what you're letting yourself in for! (Find this on the next page)

Candidate Short Exercise 2 - Your Role

This is the final stage in the process to register as a candidate and is designed to make sure that you have a basic understanding of what the role of an MSYP involves, should you be successfully elected to the position. Please remember that you'll be given lots of training and support to do these things if you're elected, so don't panic if they seem a bit difficult right now.

THE SCOTTISH YOUTH PARLIAMENT

The Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) represents Scotland's young people. Democratically elected members, aged 14-25, listen to and recognise the issues that are most important to young people, ensuring their voices are heard by decision makers. Since we were established in 1999, we've been encouraging all of Scotland's young people to play their part in achieving our vision and provide a national platform for their participation in democracy.

Our work is organised into five key areas:

- **Effecting Change:** A nation which listens to the voices of its young people.
- **Diverse Representation:** All of Scotland's young people are able to participate.
- **Positive about Young People:** Young people are recognised as key contributors to Scottish society.
- **Developing Leaders:** Through access to opportunities and training, our young people lead the way.
- **Celebrating Democracy:** A strengthened relationship between young citizens and their political structures.

THE ROLE OF AN MSYP

MSYPs are young people aged 14-25, who volunteer their time to ensure that the views of young people across Scotland are listened to. MSYPs do not just represent themselves as an individual, but need to take into account the collective interests of young people in their community or interest group. Each MSYP is elected as a national representative of a local area or organisation, and must treat their position with the responsibility it deserves.

Time commitment

There is no precise time commitment which needs to be fulfilled by MSYPs - we do not keep track of your hours. We simply ask that you give as much of your time and energy as possible to your role, taking into account other commitments and responsibilities you have. We find that five hours a week is about average, but as an MSYP you may find there are times when things are extremely busy with local youth forum meetings, consultations, etc., but that at other times there is less happening. We also have three weekend-long National Sittings of the SYP every year, which MSYPs are expected to attend.

What does the position involve?

- Consulting with young people in your area to find out their views and opinions on the subjects important to them.
- Taking part in your local youth forum, training and other events representing your constituents.
- Representing your peers at SYP National Sitings several times a year, all over Scotland, taking part in discussions and debates.
- Playing an active role in SYP campaigns work, fighting to improve things for Scotland's young people.

What do you get out of it?

- Fantastic training and support, locally and nationally, to help you carry out your role.
- Access to amazing opportunities to represent young people locally, nationally and internationally.
- A platform to engage with senior politicians and other decision-makers.
- Lots of great stuff for your CV.
- Most importantly, the chance to change things for the better!

Pop Quiz

Now that you've read the information, please answer the five questions below (all of the answers are in the text above).

Name:

Potential Candidate for:

Date of completion:

1. What is the minimum age to become an MSYP?

12	
14	
16	
18	

2. What is the average weekly time commitment of an MSYP?

1 hour	
2 hours	
5 hours	
10 hours	

3. How many National Sittings would you be expected to attend each year?

None	
1 or 2	
3 or 4	
5 or 6	

4. Which of the following would definitely be part of an MSYP's role?

Attending meetings of their local youth forum	
Acting on behalf of a political party	
Raising money for SYP	
Managing the staff of the organisation	

5. Which of the following would you be entitled to expect as part of your role?

A salary	
First-class travel around the world	
The chance to make a difference	
Your own secretary	

When you're happy that you've got them all right, give them to your **Named Election Coordinator**. They'll check them over and, provided you have completed the other stages, get back to you to confirm your registration as a candidate. Good Luck!

