

## SYP Elections 2021 FAQs

### ***I'm shy, should I run?***

If you are passionate about issues that impact young people, you should run! There will be plenty of opportunities to develop your confidence and skills throughout the election campaign and during your time as an MSYP. You'll meet loads of lovely young people, and have a go at public speaking or taking part in workshops. If you find those things difficult just now, standing as an MSYP is a really great way to overcome that.

### ***Do you have to know a lot about politics?***

No! Through SYP, you'll learn about how political decisions are made, but you certainly don't need to be a politics expert. We involve young people who are passionate about all sorts of things, for some young people that might be politics itself, for others it might be grassroots campaigning, or a passion for specific issues such as mental health, the environment, education and so much more.

### ***What if I'm an active member of a political party?***

It's totally ok if you're an active member of a political party, and many of our current MSYPs are! However, you must separate your personal party-politics from your position as an MSYP. As an MSYP, you will represent the views of your constituents, regardless of whether they align with your party-political beliefs or not. In candidate training, we'll give you more guidance on how to separate the two!

### ***Do I need experience?***

All you need is to be able to communicate why you'd make a great representative of the young people in your constituency. This might be experience or involvement in projects through school or uni or college, youth work, campaigning or anything else you have gotten up to. Or, it might be because you care deeply about issues that impact young people, and you have a passion for the role. Experience comes in loads of different forms, so don't worry about how your experience might compare to that of others, as everyone's will be totally unique.

### ***What kind of issues do SYP address?***

We address the issues that young people have told us are most important to them. Every five years, we do a big consultation with young people right across Scotland, the results of which make up our SYP manifesto. The current manifesto is called From Scotland's Young People, and you can find its key findings [here](#). We also run one national campaign each year, focusing on one of these issues specifically. In the past, we've campaigned on issues such as votes at 16, marriage equality, protecting the environment, and our current campaign 'Bounce Back' focuses on protecting young people's rights in the recovery from the COVID pandemic.

### ***Any advice and tips for running my election campaign?***

We'll run training for confirmed candidates in the summer where we'll help you with this. You might start by contacting your local MSYP, and finding out what the role is all about. From there, you can start to form a strong case for why you would make a great MSYP. Why is representing young people important to you? What issues do you care about? What qualities do you have that would make you great for this role? Once you've thought about all of that, it's time to think about effective ways to communicate that message. When you break it up into steps, it's much less daunting a task! Even if you aren't elected, running an election campaign is a brilliant learning experience, and will certainly help you in building confidence and skills for the future.

### ***What's the elections timeline?***

(Insert timeline canva graphic from Matt)

### ***How elections work and who votes?***

All 12-25 year olds who live in your constituency can vote in the election. Elections are run slightly differently in different local authority areas, and young people will either use physical ballot boxes or the online Young Scot platform to vote for you. This won't happen until November 2021, so you've got plenty of time to get your head around the process before then!

### ***How many candidates run?***

There is no limit on the number of candidates who can run, but only 2 MSYPs in each constituency will become MSYPs.