



SCOTTY'S COUNCIL

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Scotty's Council provide a voice for Bereaved Forces Children, Young People and Young Adults.

The council is made up of members aged 12-25 years. Sometimes they meet as a large group, sometimes they might meet by age group or if they are working on a certain project, they might meet in smaller sub groups.

The council do have lots of fun but it is a serious role too and at times can be emotional. They are constantly looking at what bereaved military children need so that means having lots of very open conversations about bereavement and the challenges. It often means the council members discuss their own lived experiences and hear the experiences of their peers, which can be hard.

The council have the responsibility of representing all bereaved military children and young people so may be asked to speak in public, to media, or in front of influential people because it is so important that the world hears from our young people directly and not just the Scotty Team.

CRITERIA



- **Be the right age.** To join the council you need to be 12 years or above. If you are under 12, don't worry, your time will come!
- **Have a willingness to give up your time.** To help lead Scotty's, it means sharing your opinions, experiences, ideas and volunteering (when you can) to help with projects.
- **Have a genuine respect for your peers.** As a council member you will be representing all our members, so it is important that you can listen to others with compassion and respect confidentiality. You need to have a strong desire to use your position on the council for the good of all. With great power comes great responsibility!
- **Be able to tell your story.** Being on the council means telling your story and listening to the stories of others. This can be emotional at times. Before joining the council, Scotty's will chat to you about this more, as we need to be sure that being on the council and the work that it entails, will not be harmful to you. If we have concerns, we will talk to you about them and try to work out a plan to help you develop so that you can join the council when you are ready.

SCOTTY'S PLEDGE



Scotty's Council is such an important part of the charity. The council help the team to decide on what the charity should be focusing on next and the direction it should take.

We know that joining the council is a big commitment for our members so Scotty's have made a pledge to show our commitment to them.

1. FOCUS ON YOUR UNIQUE SKILLS AND STRENGTHS.

We recognise that different council members have different interests and skills. We want to make sure you spend your time doing what you love and what you are best at, so when we want input from the council (*for example to attend an event, write a script, do some media work*) we will ask the group for volunteers or approach those members who currently have the right skills for the particular task. There is no expectation for everyone to do everything!

2. PROVIDE THE TOOLS AND TRAINING

Scotty's strongly encourage lifelong learning so sometimes you may be offered training to help you become an even stronger leader. This might be media training to help you give powerful interviews, whilst protecting your boundaries or training in presentations to help you convince a room full of politicians to change the support offered to bereaved military children.

If we know that you would like to volunteer in a particular role but we feel you aren't quite ready, we will try and support your development so that you can take that kind of role on in the future.

SCOTTY'S PLEDGE



3. BE FLEXIBLE AROUND YOUR LIFE

We recognise that council members have busy lives, and sometimes your lives are complicated, especially when dealing with grief. If you need to take some time out now and again, and this is fine. 6 months out, a year, you won't lose your place.

4. SUPPORT YOU ON YOUR JOURNEY

As part of our commitment to our council members wellbeing, we ask that all new members joining the council talk to our SUPPORT team to make sure that joining is right for you, at that particular time.

Throughout your time on the council, you will have regular check ins with the SUPPORT team. This is to make sure we are looking after your needs.

During meetings, we talk and listen to other members talk about their experiences which can be tough. It's important we have regular check ins with our council members, just like we do with our Scotty Team members

5. PROVIDE MEANINGFUL OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP THEM LEAD SCOTTY'S

Our members are the experts on children who have experienced the death of a parent who served. Your opinions, ideas and YOUR voice is crucial to leading Scotty's.

We will provide you with the support, tools and training but when we ask for your help, it is not tokenistic, your answers will shape what the charity does.

Whenever we can, we will pass as much decision making as possible over to our fabulous council.

COUNCIL COMMS



1. **WhatsApp:** We have one main group chat. This is where most of the communication happens. It is also where we share meeting agendas and post meeting notes and actions so if you miss any, you can easily catch up.
2. **WhatsApp Sub Groups:** Sometimes, if only certain members are working on a particular project we will create smaller sub group chats.
3. **WhatsApp the team:** The easiest and quickest way to contact the team if you have any council related enquires, is to WhatsApp Nikki or Rachel.
4. **Monthly Update Email:** Every month the team pull together a report for the Trustees to provide them with all the latest at Scotty's. We also send our council a smaller version of this report so you are always kept up to date with the latest info.
5. **'All Hands On Deck' Online Meetings:** At least twice a year we hold online meetings where we invite all council members. We understand everyone has busy lives so we share the notes from the meetings afterwards, in the WhatsApp group, in case anyone can't join.
6. **In Person Meetings:** Twice a year, we hold in person meetings. Again notes after the meetings are shared for those who can't attend. Scotty's can help with travel expenses and accommodation for these trips.

THE PROCESS



Please be aware, this process can take up to 6 months.

- 1. Scotty's Council Document:** If you have read through this document and are still keen to join the council, then you need to complete the application form next.
- 2. Application Form:** Complete the Scotty's Council Application form by clicking [here](#).
- 3. Video Call:** Once we receive the application, we will get in touch to arrange for a video call. If you are under 18, we will also arrange a separate call with your parent or carer. This is so we can talk to you in more detail about what is involved.
- 4. Review:** The Scotty Team will meet and discuss your application. At Scotty's, we have a duty of care to our members so we will discuss if we think this is the right time for you, personally, to join the council. If we feel it's not right for you at the moment, we will discuss this with you and work out a plan. Remember you can join the council up until the age of 25 years old. 😊
- 5. Welcome Sheet:** If it is agreed that you are ready to join the council, you will be emailed the welcome Info Sheet.
- 6. WhatsApp:** You will be added to the council WhatsApp group. If you are under 18 years old, your parent and carer will also be added.