

# Who Represents You?

**Scouts learn about their public representatives – who they are, how they are chosen and what they stand for.**

**Section:** Cubs, Scouts, Ventures, Rovers  
**Time:** 1 hour  
**Where:** Home, Den

**16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS**



## PLAN

In more than half the countries in the world, we get to choose our politicians for local and national government. Plan with the scouts how much detail they would like to get into on this. Younger scouts might be best to just focus on local or national representatives and a very basic idea of their views, while older scouts might look to get into more detail.

### Timing

This activity takes very little time to plan, and it is up to the scouts themselves how long they spend on gathering the information. The most important aspect is to set aside enough time for the scouts to discuss what they have learned.

## DO

Scouts should research who is meant to be representing them in their local and national government. Official website should have all of this information. Try to find out a little about what they stand for and what are their values. This might be obvious from the political party which they represent, or from what they have said in the media about issues.

Scouts could try to find out the overall platform and opinions of the politicians, or make it more personal by focusing on the issues which are important to them, such as youth issues, sustainability, climate change and human rights. Scouts could chat with parents or friends to get their thoughts on their public representatives.

## REVIEW

Chatting with scouts about politics might sound challenging, and even off-putting for some, but don't let that stop you. This activity allows for further discussions, but initially you should focus on the understanding of public representation. Had the scouts heard of all of their politicians before? Were they aware of the responsibilities that they have? What did they think of the opinions of these public representatives on issues of importance? Do the scouts intend to vote when they can and what kind of people would they like to elect? Would they consider running for elections themselves?

Wrapping up the discussion, it would be good to summarise the scouts' responses, and highlight the importance of being able to engage in respectful debate on these issues.



### In a nutshell...

- Scouts figure out what roles in their community are elected by the public
- They find out the names of the people who are representing their area at local, regional and national level.
- They find out what their representatives stand for and maybe consider how happy they are with their representation.



### Follow-on

The scouts could explore when people got the right to vote in their country, and if some people are still not given a vote. They could compare their own voting rights with those in other countries, where there might be more, or less, opportunities to elect public representatives. Scouts might also have opinions on the voting age, as many of them might not yet have a vote due to their age.



### SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

SDG 16 seeks to ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels. A starting point for scouts is to be aware of their own public representatives and what they stand for.



### Find out more!

Visit - [www.betterworld.ie](http://www.betterworld.ie)

Contact us - [sustainability@scouts.ie](mailto:sustainability@scouts.ie)

Produced by the Scouting Ireland Sustainable Scouting Team