



Kieran – Age 21

SCOUTS SCOTLAND

I don't think, can I? I think, how can I?

Scouts has been part of my life for as long as I can remember. My mum was a leader of our local Beaver Colony and I started going along even before I was officially old enough to join! I've taken part at every stage: Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and then Explorers. I also did my Duke of Edinburgh Awards through scouting. That's when I first got involved in volunteering. I've been a volunteer in a two Cubs groups and a Scouts group over the years. Now I'm at uni, I've helped to set up and run a Scouts Network in Dundee.

When I first started volunteering, I didn't have a lot of confidence and I was pretty quiet. But from the beginning, I could see that some of the quieter children enjoyed working with me. I liked that I could be a bit of a role model for them. Over time, I grew in confidence and I've had access to training and learned skills that are really useful to me, both as a volunteer in Scouts and in other areas of my life. I'm much more likely to share my ideas and opinions now. I'm happy to design and lead activities, and I've learned not to be embarrassed about making mistakes and trying again.

I learned a lot from the more experienced leaders that I've been lucky to work alongside as a volunteer. The leader I admired the most was incredibly supportive of giving new ideas a go. If one of the young leaders suggested a new activity, her first response was always 'yes, let's try that', and then she'd be really hands-on about how to make it work. I think that way of approaching things has rubbed off on me. When a new challenge presents itself now, I won't think, 'can I do that?' – I'll think 'how can I do that.'