



PADRAIG GRIBBIN

AGE: 15 years old FROM: Northern Ireland

TOP FIVE CHARACTER VALUES: CONFIDENCE | COMMUNICATION | LEADERSHIP | SOCIAL JUSTICE | OPEN MINDEDNESS

"I have gained experience in how to talk to young people and support and enable them, rather than doing things for them, from my social action."

I took part in a beach clean with my family when I was just six. Then when I was nominated as Head of the Eco Schools Committee, aged 10, I started volunteering in primary school. We asked students what they would like to see improved and brought this back to the teachers and committee as recommendations.

I love taking part in social action because I really believe it is important to give back to those who make my world a better place to live. I therefore continued volunteering at secondary school where I am a volunteer librarian, ensuring people can best avail the services, and have now become a digital leader too, giving presentations on online safety, online bullying and social media. I have fundraised for Parkinson's Disease and volunteer as a coach at my local Gaelic club. I also help at church. I am a young leader with Scouts Northern Ireland and remain a committed helper with the Squirrels in my local Scout group, having been involved with the Squirrels myself since I was eight years old and getting so many

opportunities, friendships and fun from it – I want to make sure all young people have this opportunity!

I have gained experience in how to talk to young people and support and enable them, rather than doing things for them, from my social action. It has also given me wider knowledge and experience of issues I wouldn't have thought of before.

All of this will help me in my newest role as a youth panel member with the NI Commissioner for Children and Young People and I focus on ensuring young people's rights are protected and advise government on the rights of the child and how their work impacts on them.



... talk to more young people about what I do as a volunteer, the importance of social action, what I gain from it and how they can get involved.

