



ROSS MACPHERSON

AGE: 17 years old FROM: Scotland

“Volunteering has given me a platform to educate people about the real symptoms of Tourette Syndrome and to challenge outdated stereotypes.”

At the age of nine, I started single sheet origami as a way of coping with my Tourette Syndrome. Later, I developed more complicated models using multiple sheets. People began taking an interest in my creations and I started to sell them, first to friends, teachers and family, and then at craft fairs across the West of Scotland.

I also started making complex origami models to order. These have always been well received and, in fact, few people have seen anything like them. This gives me the opportunity to strike up a conversation about why I make the models, which leads on to talking about Tourette Syndrome, and helps me raise the profile of the condition.

Altogether, I've raised a four-figure sum through selling my origami models, and have donated all the money I've made to Tourette Scotland.

I've run an origami club since my second year in senior school and have also taught origami in primary schools, as part of arts and crafts lessons for the Boys' Brigade and at a special needs club.

As a result of my volunteering work, I've received a Young Scot Nomination. More recently I was named as a Youth Ambassador for Tourette Scotland and will be receiving The Diana Award in June.

I try not to let my condition get in the way. I've gained Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards as well as The President's Badge and The Queen's Badge - the two highest awards available in The Boys' Brigade. In June, I'm travelling to Kenya for the second time to volunteer with local communities.

In September, I'm heading to Dundee University to study Art. While there, I will continue to raise awareness of Tourette Syndrome and hope to train professionals through Tourette Scotland.



ORGANISATIONS I'VE WORKED WITH

TOURETTE SCOTLAND, BISHOPBRIGGS ACADEMY, WALLACEWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL, THE BOYS' BRIGADE GLASGOW BATTALION, CAMPS INTERNATIONAL, THE GLASGOW HUMANE SOCIETY

CHARACTER STRENGTHS

LEADERSHIP, CONFIDENCE, COMMUNICATION, RESILIENCE, PERSEVERANCE AND DETERMINATION, CREATIVITY

