

SATRO Awards 2018
26 Sept - WWF, Woking

Lord Lieutenant; distinguished guests; SATRO executives - trustees - volunteers and sponsors; and most important of all, each and every one of the inspiring young people with us this evening!

It is my great privilege and pleasure to address you tonight as both your High Sheriff, and, in that capacity, as a Patron of SATRO. Now the role of Patron is probably clear, but what on earth is a High Sheriff?

Well, High Sheriffs have been very much a part of our history and tradition for at least one thousand years, since Saxon times, when the 'shire reeves', as they were then known, protected the Monarch's interests in the counties, and were responsible in particular for the collection of taxes and the enforcement of Law and Order. Those very extensive powers are much more limited these days (and frankly after reading about some of the goings on over previous centuries it's probably just as well - the Sheriff of Nottingham was not the only one who misbehaved!), and the modern role involves attendance at Royal Visits, supporting Her Majesty's Judiciary and providing encouragement to the police, emergency services, probation and prison services, and to other agencies involved with crime prevention, particularly among young people. The High Sheriff also plays an active role in promoting the wide range of volunteering that is undertaken within our county. It is this final focus that provides an astonishing insight into the wonderful people and organisations, like SATRO, who are working tirelessly to provide inspiration to our young people, and to actively support those facing difficult challenges and circumstances.

In Surrey, we have the High Sheriff Youth Awards, which provide financial support to projects across the county, targeted at supporting vulnerable young people. This year, we were delighted to support SATRO, so that the mobile classroom could be used during the school holidays, as part of the Guildford Borough Council's FISH initiative (Fun In The School Holidays). And this provides me with the perfect opportunity to highlight just one of the many ways in which SATRO is having such a powerful impact, as I witnessed when I visited the project during the Summer at King's College in Park Barn. The target audience for this funding are those youngsters who are disengaged,

disadvantaged, have challenging behaviours and are at risk of leaving school as being not in education, employment or training. The mobile classroom is used to teach manual skills such as bricklaying, tiling, woodwork and soldering; to provide a different and new challenge; to create feelings of self worth and satisfaction in a job well done - in short, to provide inspiration! And all of this whilst also, in a small way, beginning to address the chronic shortages in broad STEM skills we are all so determined to resolve.

SATRO operates at all levels of education, working highly effectively with our Universities, Colleges, Schools and employers to engage with our work force of the future and to highlight the wonderful opportunities that exist within the STEM universe, both currently and most certainly over the coming years. We will meet many of those inspiring young people this evening - we must all ensure that we take every opportunity to add to their number!

And finally, a few special words to all of the SATRO volunteers with us this evening. As we know, SATRO programmes are supported by hundreds of volunteers from every area of the working world. As volunteers, you collectively contributed over 3,500 hours last year, and you are, quite frankly, indispensable. Allow me to adapt a well known quote to express what you all mean to us;

As volunteers you don't get paid - not because you are worthless; but because you are priceless!

Thank you!

(Inspirational Organisation Working With Education)