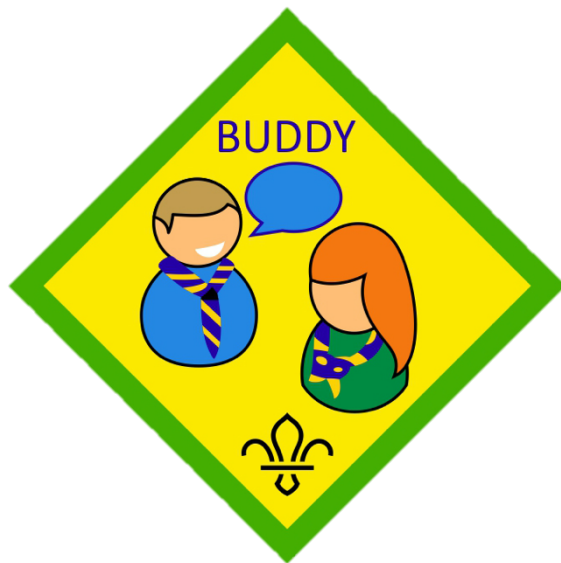


The Bring a Buddy Award

The Bring a Buddy Award aims to encourage our members to get their friends, and also adults to join the adventure of Scouting.



Bringing Young People:

- Bring a friend along to your weekly section meeting.
- Introduce them to the other members.
- Help them to become familiar with what Scouting is about and understand the Promise and Law (appropriate to the section) to support them at their investiture.
- Receive your badge during your friend's investiture into the section.

Bringing Adult Helpers:

- Bring along a new Adult helper to the session, they could be willing to help with the weekly meetings, on a parent rota, behind the scenes e.g. executive committees, treasurers or with activities.
- When the adult is invested into the group, has taken part in 2 executive meeting, done around 6 weeks on the parent rota or an equal commitment (determined by your leader) you will receive your badge.

Where are the badges worn?

The badges are worn on the left sleeve amongst the activity badges that the young person has earned. You can earn any number of badges and a mixture of both young people and adult volunteer ones too.



A bit extra information for the leaders!

- The Bring a Buddy Award can only be gained by introducing someone who is completely new to Scouting, it shouldn't be awarded for supporting someone moving into your section from the younger section.
- Young people can gain a Bring a Buddy Award for each friend they introduce into your section- they can earn it multiple times! You could run a competition in your group or unit for the number of badges gained in a year!
- If a young person has reintroduced a friend (who has previously been a member) to Scouting after an absence of three or more months a Bring a Buddy Award badge may be awarded.
- The badges are the same for all sections, but cannot be transferred from section to section.

Ways to promote the badge and increase numbers:

Bring a friend session

A bring a friend session is the ideal tool for your group or unit to recruit young people or to open more sections. The idea is that all the young people are given the opportunity to invite a friend along to participate in a normal meeting of your drey, colony, pack, troop or unit. Encourage your members to get involved and spend a meeting making personal invitations for them to pass on to their friends.

As young people leave the meeting, it's the ideal time to offer them the opportunity to join your Scout group. Encourage parents to attend some of the meeting, so you can meet them and tell them more about Scouting. Remember that the parents of new young people in Scouting are also potential adult volunteers.

It is important to ensure that young people understand that the aim is to recruit new members into your section. They should invite someone who would be able to join the section. For example, their friend should be within the required age range and live within easy reach of your groups meeting place.



This Award was developed from the Friendship Badge run by South London Scouts which they have kindly agreed to share with us in West Yorkshire.