

# The BSA Buddy System

## [2019 Guide to Advancement: The Merit Badge Program](#)

### 7.0.3.1 Counseling Sessions and Certifying Completion

“A youth member must not meet one-on-one with an adult. Sessions with counselors must take place in accordance with the Guide to Safe Scouting. Notwithstanding the minimum leader requirements, age- and program-appropriate supervision must always be provided. Youth should be encouraged to bring a buddy, such as a friend, parent, guardian, brother, sister, other relative— or, better yet, another Scout working on the same badge. If merit badge counseling includes any web-based interaction, it must be conducted in accordance with BSA’s social media guidelines ([www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection](http://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection)). For example, always copy one or more authorized adults on email messages between counselors and Scouts.”