

## Agenda

- What is a Buddy?
- Why a Buddy System?
- Buddy System Benefits
- Buddy Characteristics
- Buddy Selection Criteria
- What A Buddy Is Not
- Buddy Responsibilities
- Tips for Buddies
- Buddy System @ Syone





### What is a Buddy?

A Buddy is someone who partners with a new employee during his/her first months of employment.

A Buddy is responsible for offering guidance and advice regarding day-to-day aspects of working @ Syone.

A Buddy helps the newcomer become familiar with Syone's inner workings and culture.



#### Why a Buddy System?

- 1. Provides newcomers with a reliable, motivated, single point-of-contact for their basic questions regarding their work experience at Syone.
- 2. Helps establish orientation as a process, rather than a single learning event.
- 3. Builds on the knowledge obtained in the Onboarding Training.
- 4. Enables newcomers to become knowledgeable about department practices and culture.
- 5. Reduces the initial confusion and uncertainty faced by all newcomers.
- 6. Maximizes the productivity of manager/newcomer meetings by allowing them to focus on job-specific issues.
- 7. Increases the newcomer's self-confidence allowing him/her to focus on adding value to the organization.



### **Buddy System Benefits**

<b>Buddy</b>	Benefits
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Recognition as a valuable team member

**Expanded Network** 

Opportunity to motivate others

A fresh perspective

Enhanced leadership and mentoring skills

#### **Newcomers Benefits**

One-on-one assistance

Jump-start on networking

Single point-of-contact

Knowlegde of "how things really get done"

A smoother acclimation period

#### **Syone Benefits**

Shared quality work processes

Increased employee motivation and retention

Increased employee communication

Enhanced employee development

Increased employee productivity





#### **Buddy Characteristics**

#### Communicator:

A Buddy should encourage open communication and should provide relevant information to the newcomer, encouraging a process of continued, self-directed learning.

#### Role Model:

A Buddy should be a model employee and exemplify Syone values.

#### Motivated:

A Buddy should have a positive outlook on his/her work and lead by example.



### **Buddy Selection Criteria**

#### Selections are based on:

- Demonstration of strong performance;
- Demonstration of willingness to be a Buddy;
- Is given time to be accessible to the newcomer;
- Is skilled in/has knowledge of the newcomer's role in the project;
- Is a proud Syoner;
- Is a peer of the newcomer;
- Is patient and has good communication and interpersonal skills;
- Is well regarded and accepted by current employees;
- Exceeds in operational and administrative tasks.



#### What A Buddy Is Not

A Buddy shall not be required to assume any of the following roles:

#### Mentor:

Someone who is involved with the all-round development of an individual (personal and professional).

### • Manager:

Someone responsible for the newcomer's job performance. The newcomer must be directed to their manager for resolution of relevant issues.



#### **Buddy Responsibilities**

### A Buddy must:

- Contact and meet with the newcomer on Day 1;
- Establish a relationship with the newcomer;
- Act as an informational resource on policies and procedures;
- Help socialize the newcomer to Syone's guidelines, norms and culture;
- Answer general/routine questions;
- Make introductions;
- Ensure an open communication;
- Follow up with the newcomer on a weekly basis.



### **Tips for Buddies**

### As a Buddy:

- Be patient: It takes time to develop a relationship.
- Be positive: Newcomers will grow into their roles if given proper reinforcement.
- Try to identify the newcomer's personality and communication style and adapt accordingly.
- Maintain a good attitude and a teaching spirit.





### **Tips for Buddies**

## As a Buddy:

- Don't worry about being perceived as the expert.
- Don't be judgmental: Simply offer feedback.
- Don't try to force a relationship.







#### **Buddy System @ Syone**

### **Buddy System Process:**

- A Buddy will accompany a newcomer for 3 months.
- Hiring managers are responsible for selecting a Buddy for the newcomer.
- The Buddy System is presented to the newcomer during HR Onboarding Training.
- The Buddy must contact and meet with the newcomer on Day 1 after the Onboarding Training (HR is responsible for facilitating this encounter).
- HR is also responsible for ensuring this relationship is working by making follow ups with both regularly.
- At the end of this relationship, HR is responsible for providing a feedback and evaluation questionnaire.
- The Buddy-newcomer relationship can continue beyond the 3-months and grow into a Mentoring relationship if both agree.



#### **Buddy System @ Syone**

#### **First Contact:**

- The first meeting with the newcomer should be introductory in nature. Buddies can show newcomers around, introduce them to colleagues, and direct them to where they will be working.
- As a buddy you should:
  - Explain the operation of any equipment or systems the newcomer needs to start working;
  - Explain to the newcomer how he/she can contact you during the day;
  - Explain that you will be meeting regularly, and that non-urgent issues should be left until those times.
- Ask if the newcomer has any initial queries or issues, and deal with them.



#### **Buddy System @ Syone**

### Frequency and Timing of meetings

- The buddy and the newcomer should aim to meet regularly for at least 30 minutes, once a week during their first month and at least once a month thereafter.
- This meeting should be used to discuss any non-urgent issues the newcomer may have.
- During the first three months, the meeting calendar between buddies and newcomers should look like this:
  - At least once a week for first month
  - Twice a month in the subsequent months



#### **Buddy System @ Syone**

### **Buddy Activities Suggestion:**

- Get to know the newcomer before his/her arrival (CV / LinkedIn / HR);
- Meet the newcomer on his/her first day;
- Give him/her your contact information and explain your role;
- Introduce the team;
- Lunch with the newcomer on the first day;
- Show him/her where to lunch near Syone's headquarters;
- Explain how to use office equipment, obtain office supplies, make rooms reservations;
- Involve the newcomer in social or informal activities, such as lunch, coffee, and such;
- Share our door security code to open Syone's headquarters;
- Introduce the newcomer to the Syoners at lunch, coffee breaks or meetings;
- Share insights on how things are done;
- Conduct informal weekly check-ins with the newcomer to see how things are going and if there are any questions.



#### **Buddy System @ Syone**

### Making your Newcomer a Buddy

- We would like to see the newcomer you are working with, become a buddy in turn.
- If you feel they could fulfil such a role, find time in the last month of the relationship to share with them any tips or techniques you feel would help them in performing such a role.
- Give their name to your manager, and suggest they be considered as a buddy.



**Buddy System @ Syone** 

### **Review of the Relationship**

 At the end of the relationship, People Xperience will ask both buddy and newcomer to fill a survey aimed at improving our Buddy Program.

It will not involve the issues discussed between you and the newcomer.



**Buddy System @ Syone** 

### Support

• If you are having any trouble with the interpretation of these guidelines, or with any aspect of the buddy relationship, contact your Manager or the People Xperience department, who will be happy to give you guidance.



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