



About Big Brothers Big Sisters

Big Brothers Big Sisters Looking for Volunteers

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Ohio is seeking men and women over the age of 18 who live in Lake, Geauga and Ashtabula counties to volunteer as Big Brothers and Big Sisters.

The first step in becoming a volunteer is to fill out an application. The potential volunteer will then be contacted by a caseworker to schedule an interview. The purpose of the interview is to discover what the potential Big is looking for in this volunteer position and to give him/her the opportunity to ask questions about the program. There is no obligation at this point.

All potential volunteers must pass a screening process that includes a criminal background check with the State of Ohio and the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

Once the volunteer is accepted, he/she attends a Volunteer Training and Empower session held at the agency.

How are Bigs and Littles Matched?

Each adult volunteer (a Big) is matched with one child (a Little) of the same sex. The match is made based on personality, interests, and place of residency.

Great care is taken to make a compatible match to ensure that both the volunteer Big and the child will enjoy and benefit from their experience together.

The care that is given to the matching process may mean that a volunteer will have a short wait until a suitable match can be made.

Big Brother or Big Sister Equals Special Friend and Mentor

People who become a Big Brother or Big Sister become a special friend to a child who needs a little extra attention and the presence of a positive role model.

Volunteers spend 2 or more hours each week with their Little Brother or Sister on a one-to-one basis. The volunteer and their Little plan their own activities, depending on their interests. Types of activities include attending sporting events, playing ball in the backyard, making dinner together, taking a hike, or working on a project together. It really does not matter what the activities are as long as the Big and Little can spend time together.

It is recommended that volunteers do not spend a lot of money on their Little. The Big Brothers Big Sisters program is not about providing monetarily for children, but rather providing a positive adult role model who genuinely wants to be with the child and give him/her their undivided attention.

Who are the Little Brothers & Sisters?

Littles come from all walks of life and primarily from single-parent families. They range in age between 6 and 15 years old. They are not broken children who have extensive problems or come from the juvenile justice system. They are just ordinary kids who need some additional attention, guidance and encouragement.

For more information about becoming a Big Brother or Big Sister, please call us at 440-352-2526 or log onto our website at www.bbbsneo.org.





About Big Brothers Big Sisters

Big Brothers or Big Sisters Mentoring Programs

Community Based

Our traditional one-to-one mentoring program where an adult volunteer or a married couple is matched with one child. Matches meet weekly or several times a month, with support from Big Brothers Big Sisters staff.

School Based

Teens and adults act as “Bigs” for children in grades 3 - 5 in a group setting. The volunteers are matched with an elementary school child and meet in a structured environment in the elementary school. The matches meet once a week at a set time. Activities are coordinated by a Big Brothers Big Sisters staff member who is on site at all times.

Lunch Buddies

Seniors and adult act as Big Brothers and Sisters to children in grades 3–5 in selected elementary schools during the school’s lunch period. The volunteers are matched with a child and will have lunch and do a supervised activity with that child on a designated day each week.

E CITY Lake County

Members of the business community volunteer to become business mentors for high school students enrolled in a semester-long class that teaches entrepreneurial and life skills. Business mentors meet with their student in the classroom one day a week and help him/her develop a business plan.

Club of Unmatched Littles - COUL Club

Volunteers with time constraints can help supervise a monthly activity.

For more information about becoming a Big Brother or Big Sister, please call us at 440-352-2526 or log onto our website at www.bbbsneo.org.



Children Matched With a Big Brother or Big Sister are:

- 46% less likely to begin using illegal drugs
- 27% less likely to begin using alcohol
- 52% less likely to skip school
- 37% less likely to skip class
- 33% less likely to exhibit violent behavior

For Children Who Participate in an After School Mentoring Program:

- 64% have a more positive attitude toward school
- 58% get higher grades
- 60% improve peer relationships
- 64% develop higher levels of self-confidence
- 62% are more likely to trust a teacher

