



## **Hello!**

We are excited that you are interested in becoming a Big Brother or Big Sister. Volunteer mentors can make a BIG difference in the lives of young people.

## **About Big Brothers Big Sisters**

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the North Coast is a non-profit organization that provides mentoring programs for children and teens in Humboldt County. We believe that having a trusting relationship with an older friend can make a powerful impact in a child's life and our vision is that all children achieve success in life. The Mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters is to provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported 1-to-1 relationships that change their lives for the better, forever. We are an affiliate of the national Big Brothers Big Sisters movement which began in New York in 1904 and today serves over 300,000 children and teens each year. A single new match costs the Agency approximately \$1,100 a year including enrollment & monthly case management. We are able to offer our program for **free** to the families we serve through the generous support of individuals, businesses, foundations, and annual fundraising activities in our local community.

## **Making a Difference**

Research shows that building a trusting friendship with a child can make a powerful impact in his or her life. A "Big" can broaden a child's horizons, help a "Little" feel positive about themselves, inspire new interests, and introduce new skills. Big Brothers and Big Sisters demonstrate consistency and care to their Littles, but they also experience personal growth and have fun!

## **Your Role as a "Big"**

As a Big, you are responsible for building a healthy relationship with a Little. School Liaisons partner with the Agency to supervise the friendship for the safety and comfort of the child. A professional Match Support Specialist from our Agency is **required to make monthly contact** -- providing feedback, problem solving, and celebrating successes.

The Littles in our Site-Based program are elementary school aged and come from homes where one or both parents are not regularly involved in their lives. Children in our program come from a variety of backgrounds, but what our families have in common are the stresses that come from a lack of resources. Individual attention, enriching activities, sharing interests, and positive reinforcement can be in short supply even in the most caring household, when one parent or a guardian has to juggle all the responsibilities.

## **What a "Big" Does**

The formula for successful mentoring is pretty simple:

- Show you care
- Be available on a consistent basis
- Have fun doing activities and sharing skills and interests with your Little

Site-based matches participate in whatever interests they have in common, from playing basketball to making arts and crafts. Bigs in a site-based match make a **minimum one school-year commitment** (ideally two school-years) to meet with their Little Brother or Little Sister for **1 hour per week** at their Little's afterschool program. Site-based matches are **not allowed to meet outside of their designated site**, with the exception of Agency-sponsored events.

### **How to Get Involved**

BBBSNC is looking for Bigs who:

- Are mature, responsible, and caring
- Model safe and appropriate behavior
- Are able to relate positively and in a meaningful manner to a growing boy or girl

To start the process of becoming a High School Big, with parental permission submit the following completed forms to our Agency in-person, by mail, or by fax:

- Application
- Pre-Interview Questionnaire
- Interest Finder
- Required reference forms completed by your parent/guardian, personnel from your school, and a friend or neighbor you have known for at least two years

Upon receipt of your application and completed references, a Match Support Specialist will call you to schedule an interview and orientation. At the interview, we will collect information about you that will help us to make a successful match, tell you more about Big Brothers Big Sisters, and answer any questions you may have. You should expect to spend 1½ - 2 hours to complete the interview and orientation.

Because of our concern for child safety and our desire to make a successful match, our application process is extensive and the process of being matched usually takes approximately 4-6 weeks. After we collect information about you, a screening committee will check your application for child safety clearance. Once approved by the screening committee, our Match Support Specialist will help create a good match based on hobbies, interests, experiences, and skills.

Thank you for your interest in Big Brothers Big Sisters! We hope you will decide to become a Big. You can make a difference in the life of a Little in your community, and you can learn a lot about yourself along the way.

If now isn't the right time in your life to become a Big, please consider supporting Big Brothers Big Sisters of the North Coast in other ways - encourage others to apply, help out with a fundraiser, or sign up to be an office volunteer.

We look forward to meeting you!

-BBBSNC Staff



**HIGH SCHOOL BIG VOLUNTEER APPLICATION**

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Big Brother or Big Sister. Please submit your completed application via email to [info@ncbbbs.org](mailto:info@ncbbbs.org), fax to **707-445-1405**; or hand deliver or mail to **428 C Street, Eureka, CA 95501**.

For agency use only: Govt. ID: _____ DMV Lic.: _____ Auto Ins.: _____ References Sent _____
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Along with this application, you will need to submit a copy of a government-issued photo ID (*driver's license or student ID card*). Big Brothers Big Sisters of the North Coast (BBBSNC) does not exclude clients, parents/guardians, volunteers, staff or board members on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran status, or disability.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

First Name:	Middle Initial:	Last Name:	Preferred Name:
Home Phone #:	Work Phone #:	Cell Phone #:	Is it okay to text you? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Cell phone Provider:
Home Address:	City/State:	Zip	Emergency Contact: Name: _____ Phone: _____
Personal E-mail:	Work E-mail:	How do you prefer to be contacted? (Phone, e-mail, time of day, etc.)	
Social Security Number:	Gender:	Marital Status:	
Date of Birth:		If applicable, maiden name:	

**Race/Ethnicity:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native    | <input type="checkbox"/> Other                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-race (check all that apply)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American           | <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino                  |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> White                               |

<input type="checkbox"/> Other		
Nationality/Country of Origin:		
Occupation:	How Long Employed?	Work Hours?
Highest Level of Education:	Are you a student at this time? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please name school:	
Area of Study:		
Do you have current or past military experience? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Dates of Service:	
Branch: <input type="checkbox"/> Air Force <input type="checkbox"/> Army <input type="checkbox"/> Marine Corps <input type="checkbox"/> Navy <input type="checkbox"/> Coast Guard		
Component: <input type="checkbox"/> Active <input type="checkbox"/> National Guard <input type="checkbox"/> Reserve	Are you retired? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Are you separated/discharged (other than retired)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
If retired, separated, or discharged, please check the character of separation/discharge: <input type="checkbox"/> Honorable <input type="checkbox"/> General (under honorable conditions) <input type="checkbox"/> Under Other than Honorable Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Bad Conduct <input type="checkbox"/> Dishonorable		

**Although having a driver's license is not a requirement for a Site Based Match, possession of a driver's license is required if you will be transporting a program youth in any vehicle you are operating. Please fill out if applicable.**

Do you have a current and valid driver's license?  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, state of issue and #:  Expiration date: _____	Do you have a vehicle? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No  Do you have valid insurance that meets or exceeds state required minimum? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No    Expiration date: _____
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Have you previously applied to be or served as a Big Brother or Big Sister here or anywhere else?  Yes  No  
If yes, when and where?

Have you ever been involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters in a capacity other than a Big?  Yes  No  
If yes, when and where?

Have you ever been involved with or volunteered for another youth organization?  Yes  No

If yes, when and where?

Have you ever been denied acceptance or released from service as a volunteer or employee for another Big Brothers Big Sisters program or youth-serving organization? Yes No

If yes, when and where?

Are you interested in learning about additional ways to contribute to the Big Brothers Big Sisters mission?

Yes No

If yes, please check all interests that apply.

- Helping to recruit volunteers
- Volunteering at agency events for matches, Littles, waiting-list children, etc.
- Volunteering at agency fundraising events
- Inviting BBBSNC to speak at a company, church, organization, or other group of which I am a member

### **Media Release**

Upon occasion photos or videos of participating children are used for brochures, posters, Social Media or miscellaneous promotions to be used by Big Brothers Big Sisters of the North Coast. I hereby consent to and authorize the use and reproduction by BBBSNC, or any authorized agent, of any photographs, video, or audio recording which BBBSNC has taken without further compensation to me. All photos and videos are the property of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the North Coast. Yes No **Initials:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Parent/Guardian Initials:** \_\_\_\_\_

**REFERENCE INFORMATION**

Please list information for at least three references below including:

1. Parent/Guardian
2. Personnel from your school
3. A friend or neighbor you have known for at least two years

<b>Parent/Guardian Name:</b>			
Address:		City:	State: Zip:
Day Phone #:	Cell #:	Email:	
<b>School Personnel</b> (counselor, teacher, principal, etc):			
Address:		City:	State: Zip:
Day Phone #:	Cell #:	Email:	
<b>Friend, Neighbor, or other personal reference:</b>			
Address:		City:	State: Zip:
Day Phone #:	Cell #:	Email:	

***In addition to the references above, Big Brothers Big Sisters requires references from all youth serving organizations at which you have worked or volunteered in the past. Please list additional on separate page, if needed.***

Organization name:		Direct supervisor:	
Address:		City:	State: Zip:
Day Phone #:	Cell #:	Email:	

Dates of involvement/employment:		Reason for leaving:	
Organization name:		Direct supervisor:	
Address:		City:	State: Zip:
Day Phone #:	Cell #:	Email:	
Dates of involvement/employment:		Reason for leaving?	

I consent to and understand that:

- 1) The references and youth serving-organization I listed may be contacted by mail, telephone, email, or in-person;
- 2) The information I provided may be used to conduct a background check, to include a search of public domain records, driving records check, juvenile and adult criminal history check (*see attached authorization*), military records, and other records where required by local, state, or federal law for volunteers working with youth;
- 3) I am in no way obligated to perform any volunteer services;
- 4) The BBBSNC agency is not obligated to match me with a youth and may deny my application or close my match at any time, and to protect all participants' confidentiality, BBBS is not required to disclose reasons for doing so;
- 5) Other BBBS agencies and youth organizations where I have worked or volunteered may be contacted as references;
- 6) As part of the enrollment processes, I will be required to provide additional personal information, including completion of an in-person interview;
- 7) I understand that the information I provide in the enrollment process will be kept confidential, unless disclosure is required by law and with exceptions noted below.
- 8) I understand that incidents of child abuse or neglect, past or present, must be reported to proper authorities;
- 9) I understand that certain relevant information about me will be discussed with the parent/guardian of a child who is a prospective match (*this might include demographic information, information relevant to parent/child preferences, and any information relevant to a child's safety or well-being*);
- 10) It is my responsibility to update the agency if any of the information I provide on this application, in my interview, or any other information provided during the enrollment process changes (*i.e. address, phone number, auto-insurance, new criminal charges, etc.*).
- 11) I agree to timely communication and follow-up with all agency staff.

**Please read the following carefully before signing this application:**

I understand that this is an application for a volunteer opportunity and is not a promise or commitment by Big Brothers Big Sisters of the North Coast (BBBSNC).

I certify that all information I have provided or will provide to BBBSNC, including this application, is true, correct and complete to the best of my knowledge. I certify that I have and will answer all questions to the best of my ability and that I have not and will not withhold any information that would affect my application for a volunteer position. I understand that information contained on my application will be verified by BBBSNC. I understand that misrepresentations or omissions may be cause for my immediate rejection as an applicant or my termination as a volunteer.

At any time while involved with the BBBSNC program, I agree to immediately inform my BBBSNC contact person of any and all infractions, violations, charges and convictions related to any civil, domestic, or criminal occurrences. I understand that BBBS staff needs to be fully informed to provide the best guidance or support possible.

**Volunteer Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

***If applicant is under the age of 18, co-signature of a parent/guardian is required for application:***

**Parent/Guardian Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

### **VOLUNTEER PRE-INTERVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE**

Prior to your in-person interview, please answer the questions below. Parents of youth in our programs will often ask questions about someone with whom their child will be matched. The information you provide will also help us make a better match for you and assure we can support you during your involvement with our program. ***Please note that you will have an opportunity to discuss these questions and your responses more thoroughly during your in-person interview.***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. How did you hear about Big Brothers Big Sisters of the North Coast?
2. Do you have any concerns about your ability to fulfill the 1 school-year commitment required of mentors?  
Yes No
3. Do you anticipate any significant life changes over the next year or had any this past year?  
Yes No

Please describe:

4. Have you ever been accused, arrested, charged, or convicted of a crime?  
Yes No
5. Have you had any driving citations and/or moving violations?  
Yes No



6. Do you speak any foreign languages?

Yes  No

7. Please list any counties and states that you have lived in aside from your current address in the past 5 years.

I have answered these questions honestly and completely to the best of my knowledge.

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

**If applicant is under the age of 18, co-signature of a parent/guardian is required for application:**

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



**VOLUNTEER INTEREST FINDER**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Please look through the following activities and write a letter next to any that interest you...

Write **E** next to activities you enjoy  
Write **S** next to activities you enjoy sometimes  
Write **L** next to activities you would like to learn

**SPORTS**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Archery
- \_\_\_\_\_ Baseball/softball
- \_\_\_\_\_ Basketball
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bowling
- \_\_\_\_\_ Football
- \_\_\_\_\_ Frisbee
- \_\_\_\_\_ Golf
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bicycling
- \_\_\_\_\_ Gymnastics
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hockey
- \_\_\_\_\_ Jogging
- \_\_\_\_\_ Martial arts
- \_\_\_\_\_ Racquetball
- \_\_\_\_\_ Roller-skating
- \_\_\_\_\_ Soccer
- \_\_\_\_\_ Swimming
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tennis
- \_\_\_\_\_ Volleyball

**HAVING FUN**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Art shows
- \_\_\_\_\_ Beach
- \_\_\_\_\_ Circus
- \_\_\_\_\_ Concerts
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fairs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Forest
- \_\_\_\_\_ Kite flying
- \_\_\_\_\_ Museums
- \_\_\_\_\_ Parks
- \_\_\_\_\_ Plays
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pool
- \_\_\_\_\_ Puppets
- \_\_\_\_\_ Races
- \_\_\_\_\_ Rivers
- \_\_\_\_\_ Window shopping
- \_\_\_\_\_ Zoo

**OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Backpacking
- \_\_\_\_\_ Boating/sailing
- \_\_\_\_\_ Camping
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fishing
- \_\_\_\_\_ Gardening
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hiking
- \_\_\_\_\_ Horseback riding
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hunting
- \_\_\_\_\_ Picnics
- \_\_\_\_\_ Rafting/canoeing
- \_\_\_\_\_ Skateboarding
- \_\_\_\_\_ Snowboarding/skiing
- \_\_\_\_\_ Surfing

**INDOOR ACTIVITIES**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Board games
- \_\_\_\_\_ Card games
- \_\_\_\_\_ Chess
- \_\_\_\_\_ Computers
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pool/billiards
- \_\_\_\_\_ Puzzles
- \_\_\_\_\_ Reading
- \_\_\_\_\_ TV/movies
- \_\_\_\_\_ Video games

**EXPLORING**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Animals
- \_\_\_\_\_ Dinosaurs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Electronics
- \_\_\_\_\_ History
- \_\_\_\_\_ Insects
- \_\_\_\_\_ Oceans
- \_\_\_\_\_ Plants
- \_\_\_\_\_ Rocks/minerals
- \_\_\_\_\_ The earth & stars

**BEING CREATIVE**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Arts & crafts
- \_\_\_\_\_ Beads/jewelry
- \_\_\_\_\_ Collage
- \_\_\_\_\_ Cooking/baking
- \_\_\_\_\_ Dancing
- \_\_\_\_\_ Drama
- \_\_\_\_\_ Drawing/painting
- \_\_\_\_\_ Embroidery
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fixing things
- \_\_\_\_\_ Knitting/crocheting
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mechanics/cars
- \_\_\_\_\_ Model building
- \_\_\_\_\_ Music
- \_\_\_\_\_ Photography
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sculpting clay/pottery
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sewing
- \_\_\_\_\_ Singing
- \_\_\_\_\_ Welding
- \_\_\_\_\_ Wood working
- \_\_\_\_\_ Writing stories/poetry

**COLLECTING**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Baseball cards
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bugs/insects
- \_\_\_\_\_ Coins
- \_\_\_\_\_ Comics
- \_\_\_\_\_ Rocks
- \_\_\_\_\_ Shells
- \_\_\_\_\_ Stamps

**OTHER ACTIVITIES**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_