



**IT TAKES **LITTLE** TO BE **BIG**** <sup>TM</sup>

 **Big Brothers Big Sisters**  
OF THE CENTRAL UPPER PENINSULA

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Big Brothers Big Sisters "It Takes Little to be Big" :60

IT TAKES  
LITTLE TO  
BE BIG

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The image is a YouTube video player thumbnail. It features a black background with the text "IT TAKES LITTLE TO BE BIG" in large, bold, white and green letters. A red play button icon is centered over the text. In the top left corner, there is a small logo and the text "Big Brothers Big Sisters 'It Takes Little to be Big' :60". In the top right corner, there is a "Share" button with a white arrow icon. In the bottom left corner, there is a "Watch on" button with the YouTube logo and the word "YouTube". In the bottom right corner, there is a large, stylized logo consisting of a white outline of a letter 'B' with green and white curved lines inside it.

# OUR MISSION

Create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth.

# OUR VISION

All youth to achieve their full potential.

# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

## COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAM

- **Volunteer mentors (Bigs) are matched one-on-one with local youth (Littles ages 7+)**
- **Bigs & Littles (Matches) focus on low to no-cost activities and have outings that typically take place in the community, doing things they both enjoy together. Playing games, making art, bowling, getting ice cream, going for a hike, playing sports, or just having a simple conversation are great activities.**
- **Matches spend a minimum of 4 hours per month together. The amount of time a match spends together depends on the activity & match availability.**
- **Bigs, Littles, & Parents communicate on scheduling outings that work with everyone's availability. Some matches meet on the weekends. Others get together in the evenings after school/work. Each match is unique and develops a reliable schedule that works for them.**





# OUR PURPOSE

The purpose of our program is for each enrolled child to achieve higher aspirations, greater confidence, better relationships, educational success, and avoidance of risky behaviors.

National research has shown that being in a positive relationship with a volunteer mentor has a direct and measurable benefit in a child's life.

## Little's in our program:

- Are more confident
- Are more likely to stay away from drugs and alcohol
- Do better in school
- Get along better with family and friends
- Feel better about themselves

## Youth also experience:

- Improved self-control
- Improved social skills
- Increased grit
- Improved self-advocacy
- Hopefulness about their future
- Improved family functioning
- Increased school engagement

# ENROLLMENT PROCESS

## APPLICATION

Review the volunteer orientation & complete an application. Once the application is completed, BBBS staff will contact you about next steps.

## INTERVIEW

The interview takes place at your home. BBBS Staff will spend about 60-90 minutes gathering information about you, your interests and hobbies, and the type of Little that you would be comfortable working with.

## TRAINING

Once the interview is completed, you will complete training while we finalize your application for approval.

## BACKGROUND CHECKS

BBBS staff will complete layered criminal background checks, motor vehicle history, and reference checks.

# MATCHING PROCESS

## MATCH SELECTION

Once we have a child that is compatible with you, a staff member will call to present their profile.

## PRE-MATCH MEETING

The volunteer and parent/guardian will meet briefly with BBBS staff in a local community setting.

## MATCH MEETING

The final-match meeting brings you together with your Little for the first time. This meeting takes place at the Little's home.

## SUPPORT

You will receive ongoing support from a professional staff member throughout the entire match relationship.

# WHO ARE THE BIGS?

**Our Bigs are volunteers in your community. They are students, retirees, members of organizations, and just ordinary adults.**

**The safety of all children is extremely important to us, therefore each Big in our program must complete a thorough screening process conducted by our professionally trained staff.**



# WHO ARE THE LITTLES?

**Children in our program are:**

- **At least 7 years old**
- **Capable of benefiting from a relationship with a Big**
- **Answer safety questions appropriately**
- **Want a Big and understand the role of a Big**
- **Have a parent/guardian willing to be a partner with us by maintaining contact and helping keep us informed of changes within the family/match**





# ELIGIBILITY

Volunteers for our Community-Based Mentoring Program:

- Be 21+ with a valid driver's license and proof of car insurance
  - *If you are younger than 21 but feel you can meet all other criteria, you may still apply.*
- Reside or attend school in our service area (Marquette, Alger, Delta, Dickinson, Menominee, Luce)
- Be able to commit to a minimum of 4 hours a month with your Little for a minimum of one year.
- Pass all criminal background & driving checks
- Be mentally, physically, & emotionally able to participate
- Have the ability to form a relationship
- Be coachable and willing to work with BBBS staff

*\*Big Brothers Big Sisters has the right to accept or deny participants, or close a match at any time\**

# CHILD SAFETY

*At Big Brothers Big Sisters, we believe that all children and youth deserve to live in a world that makes them feel cared for and protected.*

*Helping to ensure the safety and well-being in the life of every child who engages with one of our local programs is our highest priority.*

- We professionally screen all participants, Bigs, Littles, and families. Our interviews are very in-depth for this purpose. We also complete layered background checks and references for our volunteers.
- Everyone in our program receives child safety education - Bigs, Littles, Parents/Guardians, & Staff
- We have ground rules and policies to ensure child safety in our match relationships. You will receive all of these in your volunteer handbook and you will also sign a copy during your interview.
- Match Support contacts with your Match Support Specialist are required. We discuss child safety at home, in school, and in the match. It is our number one priority!



**THANK YOU FOR REVIEWING THE  
VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION!**