



1400 Old Dixie Hwy.
St. Augustine, FL 32084
(904) 829-9986
www.bbbsstjohns.org

2013-2014

Dear Parents & Guardians,

We have exciting news! Your child has an opportunity to participate in the Big Brothers Big Sisters site-based mentoring program. Once a week, for one hour, an adult or college student volunteer will visit with your child (at your child's school or after-school program) during the school day. Together, your child and his/her mentor will participate in a variety of one-on-one activities such as completing schoolwork and homework, talking, arts and crafts, reading and playing outside. The children in our program improve behavior, do better in school and communicate better with adults.

Our mentors are carefully screened through interviews, references, background checks and complete a training provided by Big Brothers Big Sisters. Volunteers and children do not leave the school where they meet and are not allowed to meet outside of school, unless supervised by Big Brothers Big Sisters staff. Please contact us immediately if any such contact is attempted and/or occurs outside of agency events. We focus on improving the child's weakest academic area and also set social goals with each individual child. Your child will remain enrolled in the program until you choose to withdraw him/her or he/she moves to a school that we do not serve.

We need your help to make this work! First, **please provide the needed information on the next page, sign to give your consent and then return it to your child's teacher.** Once we receive the consent form, we will then interview your child to know his/her interests and match him/her with the right mentor. When we interview your child for the program, we will review ground rules with him/her and also talk with your child about personal safety. Big Brothers Big Sisters professionals will be supervising all matches and regularly check in with your child for updates on match activities. Second, we will be contacting you by phone a few times per year to discuss your child's progress. Please be available to speak with a Big Brothers Big Sisters professional once per quarter. If you have any questions, please call Big Brothers Big Sisters at (904) 829-9986.

We will be sending a copy of the **Parent Orientation Guide & Ground Rules** to the mailing address you list on the application. Please read this thoroughly and contact us if you have any questions. Please communicate with us any changes that you may notice in your child. In order to fully support your child, it is helpful for us to know about any issues at home that may be affecting your child's progress at school. We are committed to your child's success and can provide support to the family as well. We encourage parents/guardians to ask their child about his/her match, what kind of activities they do together and how things are going with his/her mentor. During holiday and summer breaks, mentors will stay in touch with children by sending them letters and/or calling them. We also host various events throughout the year (parties, outings, etc.) and your child will be invited to all Big Brothers Big Sisters events.

Thank you for allowing your child to participate in Big Brothers Big Sisters! We appreciate your support and are available to answer any questions you may have.

Jaime David
Program Manager
Cell: (904) 315-4067
Jaime@bbbsstjohns.org

Amber Piercy
Match Support Specialist
Cell: (904) 501-5098
Amber@bbbsstjohns.org

Parent/Guardian: Please Keep This Page for Your Records



Big Brothers Big Sisters of St. Johns County
Site-Based Mentoring Program Application

Child's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ Relationship: _____

Home Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Emergency Phone: _____

Does your child receive Free or Reduced Lunch? Yes No

Does your child have a parent who is:

- Currently serving in the military? Yes No If so, is he/she currently deployed? Yes No
• Retired from the military? Yes No

Does your child have a parent who is:

- Currently incarcerated? Yes No Name of facility/prison: _____
• On probation? Yes No

Does your child attend an after school program? Yes No If yes, which one? _____

Information Big Brothers Big Sisters should know about your child (diagnoses, allergies, medications, etc.): _____

Is there anything you would like to share about your home environment that may be helpful when getting to know your child? _____

What are your child's greatest strengths? _____

What is your child's weakest academic area (math, reading or science)? _____

What areas would you like to see your child improve in? _____

What activities does your child enjoy participating in? _____

In what ways do you think a Big Brother or Big Sister can help your child? _____

More on Back of Page

Complete the Consent on the back of this page and return the form (application & consent) to your child's teacher.



Big Brothers Big Sisters of St. Johns County
Parent/Guardian Consent

I give my child _____ permission to participate in the Big Brothers Big Sisters Site-Based Program. I understand that it will be necessary for Big Brothers Big Sisters of St. Johns County to obtain feedback from my child's school and I give permission for the school to provide social and academic information about my child (e.g. report cards, behavior reports) and discuss my child's academic and social progress with BBBS staff. I understand that my involvement is critical to my child's success and I will communicate with BBBS on a regular basis. I will also talk to my child about his or her match relationship and ask questions about match activities. I will notify BBBS of any concerns.

I understand that as part of the enrollment process, my child will complete a questionnaire containing questions about school, home life and personal interests. My child will also talk with a Big Brothers Big Sisters staff person about personal safety. I understand that my child and his/her mentor are not allowed to visit with each other outside of school or the after-school facility (unless supervised by BBBS staff). I also understand that all of my child's information remains confidential and secure at the BBBS office.

I release Big Brothers Big Sisters of St. Johns County, its directors, staff and agents from responsibility for accident, injury or illness that may befall my child while participating in the program. I agree for my child to participate in the program until such time he/she moves to another school or I withdraw them from the program with either written or verbal notice.

[] Yes or [] No: I give permission for Big Brothers Big Sisters to use my child's photograph and first name for the purpose of marketing efforts.

[] Yes or [] No: I give my permission for Big Brothers Big Sisters to share my address and/or phone number with my child's mentor so that they can stay in touch during holiday and summer breaks via mail and/or phone.

I also agree to thoroughly read the Parent Orientation Guide and Ground Rules that will be sent to my mailing address and I will review the program ground rules with my child. If I do not receive a copy of the orientation guide, I will contact BBBS staff at (904) 315-4067 and request a copy. I understand that I can contact BBBS or meet with someone in person if I have any questions about the ground rules.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Big Brothers Big Sisters of St. Johns County does not discriminate on the basis of gender, age, race, sexual orientation/preference, gender identity, religion or national origin. However, as the parent/legal guardian of your child, you have the right to identify any volunteer preferences. You may require that your child only be matched to a mentor of a particular gender, race, sexual orientation/preference, gender identity, religion or national origin, as follows:

(If you do not indicate anything in the above space, we will assume that you approve your child being matched with the adult mentor selected by Big Brothers Big Sisters, without restriction.)

Thank You!

Remember to return both the application and consent form to your child's teacher.