

COMMUNITY-BASED MENTORING GROUND RULES

1. The Big and Little are assigned a Match Support Specialist, who will check in monthly with each person to monitor the progress and safety of the match and occasionally administer surveys. The Big, Parent/Guardian, and Little MUST stay in touch with their Match Support Specialist and notify their Match Support Specialist of any issues with the match or changes in contact information.
2. The Big and Little agrees to a minimum 12-month commitment, with a requirement to meet 2-4 outings per month for this period.
3. If all parties agree to continue the match beyond the twelve-month commitment, Big Brothers Big Sisters will support the match until the Little turns 21 years old. If any party is considering closure, it is that person's responsibility to inform their Match Support Specialist. No party should just stop communication.
4. The Big will make plans directly with the Parent/Guardian about pick-up and drop-off arrangements. The Parent/Guardian, or a pre-arranged responsible adult, will be home when the Little returns from an outing.
5. Outings should be one-on-one and in the community. Littles may not visit their Big's home during the first 3 months. After that, home visits require prior approval from the Parent/Guardian and Match Support Specialist. If not already completed, a home assessment by a BBBS employee must be conducted before any home visit takes place. If applicable, the Little is not allowed to be at the Big's dorm.
6. Bigs should wait at least 3 months before introducing friends or family to their Little. These introductions should be rare, approved in advance, and the Big must remain with the Little and be the driver at all times.
7. The Big cannot take other friends and family members of their Little on outings. The only exception is to allow a sibling of their Little who is enrolled in the BBBS program to attend an agency activity supervised by BBBS staff.
8. The Big is expected to comply with all local, state, and federal laws. There is to be no alcohol, drug, or tobacco use before meeting or in the presence of their Little.
9. The Big and Little must always wear seat belts. Littles under the age of 12 must ride in the back seat. Littles under the age of 8, must ride secured in a booster seat provided by the Little's family. The Big will not use a cell phone while driving and will follow all traffic laws.
10. The Big and Little will respect personal space and avoid inappropriate physical contact (examples include tickling, wrestling, sitting on laps, and backrubs, etc.).
11. Overnight stays are prohibited. No exceptions.
12. For any high-risk activity, both the Big and the Little's Parent/Guardian must each complete and sign their own electronic High-Risk Activity Form. Once approved, it remains valid for the entire calendar year. Request the forms from your Match Support Specialist or find them on the BBBS website.
13. Matches should choose low-cost and no-cost activities. If an activity costs money, the Big and Little share the cost.
14. Gifts are not encouraged, but if the Big would like to give a gift to their Little, the Big must discuss it with their Match Support Specialist and the Little's Parent/Guardian before purchasing or giving the gift.
15. The Big does not become involved in the discipline of the Little.
16. BBBS discourages the Parent/Guardian from keeping the Little from visits with their Big as a means of discipline.
17. BBBS reserves the right to suspend or close any match at any time.