

# Big Brothers Big Sisters of WNC

## Building Friendships with a Purpose!

### Policy on Eligibility of Volunteers

**\*Please put a check to note you have read each item. Return this with the enrollment form.**

#### Community-based program:

- 18 years of age or older.
- Must be willing and motivated to engage in physical activities and keep up with a young person.
- Must have time to engage in activities twice a month for several hours each time.
- Must provide a copy of a valid driver's license and a copy of your NC state minimum automobile insurance.

#### School-based/ After-school program:

- 16 years of age or older.
- Must be willing to encourage educational success through help with assignments and reading as well as play board games, do art/ crafts, puzzles, etc.
- Have reliable transportation to the program site.

#### All programs

- Be settled in employment and residence.
- Be able to make a calendar year time commitment once you are matched.
- Be able to be consistent in your contact with the youth and the organization's staff.
- Be able to complete the volunteer enrollment process in a timely manner.
- Be interested in and willing to help a young person improve interpersonal skills, experience a variety of enrichment activities, and develop higher aspirations.
- Be interested in and willing to attend workshops that will help you ignite your Little's potential.

We cannot access motor vehicle records for the following states because our purpose is not employment: AL, AZ, DE, DC, KS, MA, MI, MT, NJ, OH, UT, VA, WV, WI and WY. So, please obtain a NC driver's license and then submit an enrollment form.

Provide complete and truthful information and share information of a personal nature. The enrollment process includes local and national criminal background checks. \*Safety considerations: 3 moving/ safety violations in the previous 3 years will be evaluated during enrollment. Five offenses of any type in the previous 3 years will result in disqualification.

Be able to demonstrate maturity, stability, and sound judgment to fulfill the role of a mentor. The following are important in working with children/ families in our program:

- Openness to values, living standards and lifestyles different from your own.
- Flexible approach to selecting activities, based on the interests of the child and goals of the match.
- A history of healthy interpersonal skills and relationships.
- Self-awareness, emotional and cognitive maturity appropriate to mentoring.

A Screening Committee makes the decision about an applicant's acceptance or non-acceptance based on the above criteria. Once the Screening Committee approves a volunteer, the parent/ guardian decides if a volunteer is the best fit for their child. A match may not occur right away due to interests, preferences, and other factors.

The above criteria are also used to determine continuing eligibility after a match with a Little Brother or Little Sister is made. The final decision regarding eligibility is entirely the program's decision. It must be understood that the program does not have to explain the reasons for the decision when to do so would be in violation of the confidentiality policy or not in the applicant's best interests.

*It is the policy of Big Brothers Big Sisters of WNC to not exclude individuals on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, veteran status, or disability.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Revised 12/18