



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your child has been invited to participate in "MentorU", a Big Brothers Big Sisters at the Y (BBBSY) mentoring program in conjunction with the Next Generation Scholars program at your child's school. A permission form is attached to this letter, which should be returned as soon as possible to the Program Manager at your child's school. The information below explains the program in more detail.

What is "MentorU"?

MentorU is a high school mentoring program focused on career and college readiness. It provides screened and trained volunteer mentors for students and is intended to keep students on track for graduation and success.

How does the program work?

- Your child is matched with a volunteer mentor: a "Big Brother" or "Big Sister" to communicate with via a monitored electronic platform. Bigs and Littles (students) will have a monthly virtual event facilitated by BBBSY Site Specialist and the Program Manager.
- The MentorU curriculum helps students to develop personal, academic and career skills by providing each student with a volunteer mentor with experience in a variety of areas. The MentorU curriculum is designed to offer students extra opportunities and resources regarding career exploration, college admission guidance, and future planning.
- **For the first year, Bigs are not permitted to visit their Littles outside of the monthly mentor events and the electronic platform.**
- Students will complete a feedback form on a monthly basis, to make sure things are going well, and that your child's needs are being met. A Y Site Specialist will also be in touch with you twice a year (once in the fall & once in the spring) to discuss the relationship. You are encouraged to contact us at any time to discuss your child's involvement with "MentorU" or to schedule a time to meet your child's Big.

Who are the Big Brothers and Big Sisters?

- They are volunteers who are carefully screened by Big Brothers Big Sisters at the Y before being matched with a child. This screening process includes a reference check, a criminal background check, and a personal interview. The volunteers are local college students and professionals who are interested in spending a few hours a month helping a child.

How will your child be matched with a Big?

- The Program Manager will meet with your child to gather information regarding your child's needs and interest. This information will be used to choose the most appropriate volunteer for your child and to assist the Big in planning activities that would be most beneficial for your child. Relevant information about your child's interests, talents, and needs would be shared with your child's Big. All elements of your child's profile will be kept in the strictest of confidence.

Who will your child be matched with and how to enroll?

- Mentors range in age from 20 to 60+ years of age. Girls are matched with Big Sisters. There are typically more Big Sisters than Big Brothers available; therefore, boys can be matched with either a Big Brother or a Big Sister. There have been many successful Big Sister/Little Brother matches in our programs.
- If you have any specific preferences regarding your child's Big, please note them on the attached permission form. Upon completion, please return the permission form to the school.



2020-2021 "MentorU Program Parent/Guardian Permission Slip

Your signature acknowledges and agrees, until you otherwise notify us in writing that:

1. You grant permission for your son/daughter to participate in "MentorU", the BBBSY Mentoring Program during your child's tenure in high school.
2. If your child is a boy: you understand that BBBSY may match your son with a female mentor because there is sometimes a shortage of male volunteers.
3. You authorize the school to release your child's student ID, and information regarding your child's academic performance, attendance, and behavior to BBBSY at the beginning and end of each school year your child is enrolled.
4. You agree to have your child complete a confidential questionnaire containing questions about peer relationships, feelings about school, grades, educational expectations, parental relationships and attitudes toward risky behaviors.
5. You authorize BBBSY to use your child's photograph and first name for the purpose of publicity efforts.
If you do not authorize the use of your child's photograph and first name, check here ☐
6. There will be no in-person contact between your child and the mentor outside of the virtual setting except for planned, supervised group activities provided by BBBSY.
7. You grant permission to BBBSY to share your child's email and/or phone information with his or her Big. This will allow the Big to contact your child via email and/or phone. **If you do not wish your child to have email and/or phone contact outside of school, check here** ☐
8. A Match Mixer will be held virtually to introduce the Big, Little, Parent, Site Specialist and Program Manager. You agree to attend a Match Mixer to meet.
9. A Site Specialist will contact you bi-annually for an update on your child and your thoughts concerning the program. You agree to be available for these contacts.

Parent/Guardian's name (printed): _____

Relationship to child: _____

Child's name: _____ Birth date: ____/____/____

Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female Race/Ethnicity: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone (home): _____ (Work): _____

Parent Email: _____ (Cell): _____

Child's medical concerns (e.g., asthma, diabetes, allergies, ADHD): _____

Do you anticipate any changes in your living situation during the school year? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please explain: _____

Does your child currently have any family member who is in jail? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Relationship to child: _____



Child's email (to share with Big): _____

Child's phone number (to share with Big): _____

Signature: _____
Parent/guardian

Date: _____

OPTIONAL INFORMATION

For Statistical Purposes Only:

Income Level of Parent/Guardian:

- ☐ \$0-\$10,000 ☐ \$10,001-\$15,000 ☐ \$15,001-\$20,000 ☐ \$20,001-\$30,000 ☐ \$30,001-\$50,000
☐ \$50,001+

Current Living Situation:

- ☐ One Parent ☐ Two Parent ☐ Other Relative ☐ Group Home ☐ Foster Home ☐ Other

Please check any of the following areas if you have preferences regarding the volunteer who may be matched with your child. If box is checked, please explain your preferences. Thank you!

- ☐ Education _____ ☐ Sexual Orientation _____
☐ Marital status _____

Note: BBBSY does not discriminate on the basis of the above factors but you may have a preference about the volunteer who may be matched with your child and we will follow your preferences to the best of our knowledge. Be aware that strict preferences will limit our ability to match your child.

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

Do you have any additional special requests?
