



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of the Sioux Empire

Little Moments. Big Magic.™

Orientation Packet



IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE INFORMATION IN THIS
PACKET, PLEASE CALL BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS AT 334-1632.

**Thank you for your interest in
Big Brothers Big Sisters and
Native American Scholars!**

Welcome to Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sioux Empire and the Native American Scholars Program!

Big Brothers Big Sisters prides itself on providing ONE-TO-ONE friendships between caring mentors and children from primarily single parent homes. Big Brothers Big Sisters of America has over 450 agencies across the country, which are national non-profit agencies. Big Brothers Big Sisters is the premier mentoring agency in the country and has been in existence for 100 years providing quality relationships to youth. Involvement in Big Brothers Big Sisters has shown proven results. Children involved in the program are:

- 46 percent less likely to start using illegal drugs;
- 27 percent less likely to start drinking;
- 52 percent less likely to skip a day of school; and
- 37 percent less likely to skip class, and one-third less likely to hit someone.
- The quality of the mentees' relationships with their parents, guardians and peers also improves.

South Dakota has three Big Brothers Big Sisters programs. One is in Sioux Falls and the other two are in Rapid City and Watertown. The Sioux Falls agency has been providing mentors to children since 1994 and received full affiliation in 1997.

Philosophy and Mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters

The mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sioux Empire is to transform communities, through quality mentors and professional services, which assist youth and young parents in achieving the highest potential, as they grow to become confident, competent and caring individuals. The mentors (volunteers) are a vital part of the program. They meet with the children 2-4 hours a month. The volunteer provides positive role modeling through the activities and interactions they have with the child.

About Native American Scholars

Native students face unique challenges that ultimately lead them to drop out of school. The Sioux Falls School District drop-out rate for Native students hovers around 13%, versus 3-4% for non-Native students. Using the Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring model, NAS will connect students with caring, consistent adults who will give students the courage and confidence to graduate high school and pursue college, in addition to learning more about traditional Native cultures. NAS will also be closely involved with the school district and the families of the NAS students.

About the Wambli Ota Club

Wambli Ota means *many eagles* in Lakota. Wambli Ota is an after school program for children who are not involved with NAS. The club meets for one hour, once a week at the child's school during the academic year and once a month at regularly scheduled BBBS activities during the summer. Mentors and Littles will participate in cultural and academic activities, while NAS staff supervises. Once the matches have developed a strong relationship, they have the option of also meeting in the community unsupervised.



Big Brothers Big Sisters

of the Sioux Empire

Core Program

- *Mentor is 16 years or older
- *Matched with a child between the ages of 7-14
- *Friend and Role Model
- *Positive one-to-one relationship
- *Cross gender matches for Big Sisters
- *Couple matches for Little Brothers

Native American Scholars Program

- *Mentor is 18 years and older
- *Matched with a Native American student between the ages of 7-18
- *Role model, support, friend, tutor
- *Encourage student to stay in school and graduate or get GED
- *Link student with mentor corporation or business for future employment
- *Couple matches for Little Brothers

Wambli Ota Club

- *Mentor is a college freshman, sophomore or junior (exceptions made)
- *child is Native American in 1st-4th grade
- *meet 1 hour, once a week during school year; once a month during summer

Amachi Program

- *Mentor is 18 years or older
- *Matched with a child between the ages of 7-14 with an incarcerated parent
- *Faith-based
- *Friend, role model, support
- *Positive one-to-one relationship
- *Cross gender matches for Big Sisters
- *Couple matches for Little Brothers

Mentor Moms Program

- *Mentor is 25 years or older
- *Matched with a Young Mom ages 13 or older, either pregnant or parenting
- *Friendship/support and increase parenting skills
- *Encourage Young Moms to stay in school and graduate from High School/College
- *Encourage appropriate family planning

**Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sioux Empire
Native American Scholars Child Eligibility Criteria**

To receive services from the Native American Scholars Program at intake or point of matching, a child must:

1. Be between the ages of 7 and 18. Exceptions to take children under the age of 7 will be made based on the number of volunteers and the child's family situation.
2. Reside in the state of South Dakota.
3. Have a desire to participate in the program.
4. Have a custodial parent/guardian who is capable of supporting a match relationship.
5. If parents are divorced, there must be a clear resolution of all custodial issues.
6. The needs of the client must be appropriate for volunteer intervention as determined by the Big Brother Big Sister staff members. Guidelines for determining eligibility include:

- Culturally and/or economically disadvantaged
- Exhibits poor social skills
- Has few friends his/her own age
- Lacks adequate support and attention of a stable adult
- Is an underachiever at school
- Is overly dependent on a parent
- Has a sibling who has had significant problems with social or community adjustments
- Is insecure with and does not trust adults
- Has poor self-esteem

A child may not be accepted if:

- Contact with the child's parents is frequent, consistent and appropriate
- The child receives adequate contact or role modeling from another source on a regular basis
- The child's problems are so severe that services from a mentor are inappropriate or inadequate
- The parent/guardian is unwilling to give their consent for the child to participate
- The child is unwilling to participate

A child may live in one of the following situations:

- A single-parent or no-parent home where the parent/guardian has legal custody
- A family situation where one or both parents/guardians are mentally or physically disabled
- A two-parent family experiencing crisis related stress
- A foster home where the child is in the care of a legal guardian

**Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sioux Empire
NAS Volunteer Eligibility Criteria**

A volunteer for Native American Scholars must:

1. Be a minimum of 18 years old.
2. Have a reliable means of transportation. If that means of transportation is an automobile, the volunteer must have a valid driver's license and minimum levels of insurance prescribed by state law and the agency's insurance carrier. The volunteer must provide Big Brothers Big Sisters with copies of their driver's license and car insurance.
3. Make a commitment to have contact with the child for a minimum of 2 to 4 hours a month and for a minimum of one year.
4. A criminal records check will be completed as part of the screening process and must not contain any information that indicates the volunteer would be unable to act as a positive role model to a child.
5. The volunteer will complete an interview and home assessment with Big Brothers Big Sisters staff.
6. The volunteer will provide the names, addresses and phone numbers of four (4) references to Big Brothers Big Sisters staff.
7. Demonstrate an interest in and ability to work with children.
8. Demonstrate respect for the safety of children.
9. Demonstrate mental and emotional stability.
10. Have a home environment that is suitable to a child.
11. Portray a healthy sexual attitude.
12. Relate appropriately to the Big Brothers Big Sisters staff and agree to work within agency guidelines.
13. A mentor's volunteer or employment experience with this or any other Big Brother Big Sister of America affiliate will be checked as a part of the mentor's background information.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Funding:

Big Brothers Big Sisters as a non-profit agency which is recognized by the Federal Government as a 501(c)3 organization. Because of our status we do not charge a fee for our services. The cost to operate our matches is approximately \$700.00 a year. In order to maintain a quality program we depend on the funding or generous donors, corporations and grants. Our funding is received through the following ways.

- United Way
- Grants
 - Hunt for Kids Sake
 - Bowl for Kids Sake
 - Annual Appeal
- Fund Raising
- Private Donors
- Corporate Donors
- In Kind Donations

