



Confidential Spouse/Spousal Equivalent Volunteer

Reference/Interview Form

Staff Guide

Volunteer Applicant:

Reference Name:

BBBS Staff Name:

Reference Phone #:

Date of Initial Contact:

Relationship to Applicant:

Applying for:

CBM

SBM

Other

[Volunteer's Name] is applying to become a Big Brother/Sister and has given us your name as a spouse or partner reference in his/her application to become a one-to-one volunteer mentor with our organization. [Name] has signed a release permitting you to disclose information in order to complete this reference. Your responses to the following questions will help us determine volunteer's fit, including the applicant's suitability to be matched with a child in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, and help to facilitate a successful match as part of a comprehensive enrollment process. Your responses will be kept confidential.

Big Brothers Big Sisters is a mentoring program serving children who face adversity, providing caring one-to-one volunteer mentors who meet with a child in the community or at a school or other site.

QUESTIONS:

1. How long have you known the volunteer applicant?
2. Do you currently live with the applicant? If so, for how long?
3. Please describe your relationship with the applicant:



4. Tell me about the applicant's general strengths and weaknesses.
5. How would you describe the applicant's personal characteristics?
6. Has the volunteer spoken to you about his/her interest in becoming a volunteer?
7. What was your initial reaction to the applicant becoming a Big Brother or Sister? Are you supportive of his/her becoming involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters and mentoring a child in a one-to-one setting?
8. Do you anticipate being involved or present when the volunteer applicant is mentoring a child? How?
9. If you have children, how do your children feel about the volunteer applicant becoming a Big? Do you anticipate your child/children interacting with the Little Brother or Sister?
10. Please describe how the applicant relates to children of varying ages and personalities...
11. How does the applicant show a child that he/she cares about them?
12. What types of personalities or characteristics do you think the volunteer applicant may find challenging in a child?
13. Have you had the opportunity to observe the applicant disciplining a child (your own child or another child)? Please tell me about a time when you observed the applicant with a child who was not behaving as expected – how did the applicant respond?



14. Do you consider this applicant dependable?

15. Many volunteers end up spending time with their Littles in their homes at some point later in their relationship. Please describe the applicant's home environment and neighborhood. Can you speak to any concerns you may have with a child visiting the volunteer's home? (Please explain)

16. If you live with the applicant, how do you feel about a child potentially visiting your home?

17. What do you anticipate the applicant and child may do at the volunteer's home and what are some things you're aware of at the applicant's home that a Little may enjoy doing there?

18. Who else lives in the volunteer's home and what are their relationships to him/her?

19. Is there anyone that you're aware of that lives in or around the volunteer's home that you would feel may pose a potential safety risk to a child?

20. Who does the volunteer applicant spend most of his/her free time with and what do they generally like to do together?

21. Is there any reason why you believe this may not be the right time for the volunteer applicant to mentor a child? Why?

22. Is there anything further you'd like to share with us about this applicant?

Thank you for serving as a reference for this applicant. Would you like more information about how to become involved as a volunteer or financial supporter of Big Brothers Big Sisters?



_____ Yes _____ No

For BBBS Staff Use Only:

Follow up contact needed? Yes _____ No _____

Record any concerns resulting from this reference below: