



The Big Update

Activity Ideas, Events and News for Bigs

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We hope you're enjoying winter with your Little. This issue of The Big Update should give you some fun ideas of what to do during these cold, snowy months.

Don't miss our National Mentoring Month events in January. We've got a lot going on for Bigs and Littles, as well as those interested in becoming Bigs. We're hoping to recruit 100 new Bigs, so please spread the word and invite your friends to an event!

Thanks for being a Big! Look for the next Big Update at the end of February.



National Mentoring Month

Celebrate Mentoring in January!

January is National Mentoring Month. Celebrate with us at our FREE events:

- **Mon., Jan. 12 - Free Movie Night at the Rosebud Cinema** - See Indiana Jones in "Raiders of the Lost Ark." [More about Movie Night >>](#)
- **Thr., Jan. 15 - Game Night** - Come to the BBBS office for trivia games with other matches. [More about Game Night >>](#)
- **Tue., Jan. 20 - "Be the Change" Social** - A social mixer for Bigs and friends at Claim Jumper. [More about the Social >>](#)
- **Thr., Jan. 22 - Mentoring 101 Speed Session** - Fun and fast way to learn more about BBBS, great for friends who are interested in being a Big. [More about the Speed Info Session >>](#)
- **Sat., Jan. 24 - Milwaukee Wave Game** - Free tickets to the Wave game while supplies last. [More about the Wave Game >>](#)

Winter Activity Ideas

Get Outside in the Parks

Milwaukee County Parks offer a lot of fun winter activities. Go cross-country skiing, ice fishing, ice skating, sledding and tobogganing. [Get all the winter sports locations on their web site >>](#)



Indoor and Outdoor Fun at the Urban Ecology Center

The Urban Ecology Center is a great place to take Littles. Every Saturday you can feed their animals (snakes, fish and turtles) or participate in a science activity. Hike or snowshoe in Riverside Park, then warm up in the center's real tipi or by the wood-burning stove. [Learn more about all the things to do at the Urban Ecology Center >>](#)

January & February Events

January Events

Free Days at the Zoo - Visit the Zoo for free!

Saturday, Jan. 3 and Feb. 7

Milwaukee County Zoo (10001 W. Blue Mound Rd., Milwaukee)

Cost: **FREE**



Winter Fun Hike - Even though it's cold and snowy, there are still lots of animals moving around. Come dressed for an outside hike to look for animals in winter.

Saturday, Jan. 3, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Havenwoods State Forest (6141 N. Hopkins St., Milwaukee)

Cost: **FREE**

Winter Wildlife on Snowshoes - Join a Retzer naturalist as you trek the trails in the silent world of winter on snowshoes. These half-day Saturday sessions cover the various styles of snowshoes, how to use them and wildlife tracks and signs.

Saturdays, Jan. 3, 10, 17, 31 and Feb. 14, 21, 28

1-3 p.m. (Register 5 days before program.)

Retzer Nature Center (S14 W28167 Madison St., Waukesha)

Cost: \$7/person + [park admission fee](#)

Waukesha Winter Janboree - A full day of free kid-friendly fun, including horse-drawn wagon rides, ice sculpting, pancake breakfast and fireworks.

Friday-Sunday, Jan. 23-25

City of Waukesha

Cost: **FREE** (most activities)

Chinese New Year at the Domes - Celebrate the Chinese New Year with music, dance, food and activities that foster an appreciation of Chinese and Chinese-American culture.

Saturday, Jan. 24, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Mitchell Park Domes (524 S. Layton Blvd., Milwaukee)

Cost: Bigs-\$5, Littles-\$3.50 (subject to change in 2009)

Frosty Flicks Winter Film Festival - Special family films every Saturday morning at Marcus theaters throughout the area - all seats only \$2.50, including a complimentary-size popcorn.

Every Saturday, Jan. 24-Mar. 14, 10 a.m.

Area Marcus theaters

Cost: \$2.50/ticket

February Events

Cedarburg Winter Festival - Parade, ice carving, bed races, live music and more in Cedarburg.

Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 7-8

Downtown Cedarburg

Cost: **FREE**



Wild Winter Night - Planetarium programs, telescopes, guided hikes and a campfire with s'mores and hot cocoa.

Saturday, Feb. 7, 6-9 p.m.

Retzer Nature Center (S14 W28167 Madison St., Waukesha)

Cost: \$2/person + park admission fee

Candlelight Ski/Hike - Several hundred luminaries will be placed at 30-foot intervals along two half-mile trails. Warming shelter and refreshments available.

Saturday, Feb. 14, 6-9 p.m.

Pike Lake Unit of Kettle Moraine State Forest (Hartford)

Cost: **FREE event** (state park admission required)

Winter NatureFest - Hikes, nature activities, crafts and lots of fun indoors and out.

Saturday, Feb. 21, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Havenwoods State Forest (6141 N. Hopkins St., Milwaukee)

Cost: **FREE**

Match Support Corner

Have You Spoken with Your Match Support Lately?

Match Support is a benefit of being a Big Brother or Sister--a staff member is here to help you out--but it's also a requirement of our programs.

If you're in the first year of your match, you need to communicate with your Match Support Specialist on a monthly basis (quarterly for longer matches).

If you receive a voicemail or e-mail from your MSS, please give him or her a call! It'll only take a few minutes, and it will keep you in compliance with Big Brothers Big Sisters safety rules. Thank you!

Please Note: Inclusion in The Big Update does not constitute an endorsement by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Milwaukee or its staff. Big Brothers Big Sisters is not responsible for cancellations, changes or errors in dates, times or any other information regarding the events listed in The Big Update. The information presented here was accurate as of 12/23/08.