



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Metro Milwaukee

The Big Update

The BBBS quarterly newsletter of activity ideas



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Match

Anniversaries

Congratulations to all matches who celebrated an anniversary in January, February or March! [See the list of first-quarter match anniversaries on our web site.](#)

We're Hiring!

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Milwaukee periodically recruits new staff to join our team. Check the [Career Opportunities](#) section of our web site for our current job openings.

Big Deal Discount Club

Our discount program provides discounts and special offers for Bigs and Littles at designated locations. Visit the Mentoring Tools section of our web site for [the ever-expanding list of participating Big Deal locations](#). If you go to one of these businesses, please let them know how much you appreciate their participation.

Thanks!

In honor of National Volunteer Week (April 20-26), we're starting off this edition of *The Big Update* with a **big thank you** to all our Bigs! Your generous gift of time and friendship is essential to our mission. Thank you from our staff, Board of Directors, Littles and families!

This issue highlights activities at some of our **Big Deal Discount Club** partners. When you visit our discount partners, please thank them for supporting Big Brothers Big Sisters!

In keeping with a theme of appreciation, the Match Support Corner offers ways to **teach your Little to give back** and say thanks.

For your convenience, the activity ideas here will be available on our web site under [Mentoring Tools-Activity Ideas](#) until the next issue at the end of June.

We Appreciate Our Bigs!

Sign up for the Volunteer Appreciation Social on April 24!

You and an adult guest are invited to [Lucille's Rockin' Pianos](#) from 6-7:30 p.m. on April 24 for appetizers and camaraderie in honor of National Volunteer Week. It's our small way of saying thanks for being a Big!

To register, contact Karina Simons: (414) 258-4778, ext. 256 or ksimons@bbbsmilwaukee.org.

Invite a Potential Big to an Open House

Every Tuesday in April and May BBBS is hosting an Open House from 6-7 p.m. for potential Bigs.

Do you have friends or family members thinking about becoming a Big? Encourage them to stop by one of these casual information sessions at our Milwaukee office. They'll learn more about our volunteer options, enrollment process and what it's like to be a Big Brother or Sister.

For information, [contact Kathy Miller](#), Director of Volunteer Recruitment, at (414) 258-4778, ext. 245.

Spring Activity Ideas

Bowl for 94 Cents - [IPic Entertainment](#) and WKTU host 94 Cent Bowling every Tuesday from 11 a.m. to closing at Pinstripes in Bayshore Town Center. For \$0.94 per game, plus shoe rental, you and your Little can enjoy bowling in a stylish, smoke-free atmosphere. (*suggested by Big Sister Sara G.!*)

Sign Up for the Brewers Kids Club - If you're a big baseball fan, the Kids Club is an inexpensive way to take your Little along to games. For \$20, kids receive six Terrace Reserved ticket vouchers for a choice of Brewers home games (restrictions apply), as well as other Brewers goodies. ([Online information](#) was not available at the time of publication. For information and orders, call 414-902-4781.)

Make Something at Home Depot - Designed for kids 5-12, these [free workshops](#) teach do-it-yourself skills and tool safety, while instilling a sense of accomplishment. Offered the first Saturday of each month between 9 a.m. and noon at The Home Depot®.

Paint Your Own Pottery - [A Touch of Glaze](#) is a ceramics studio where you and your Little can transform a piece of bisque pottery into your own colorful work of art. As a member of the [Big Deal Discount Club](#), A Touch of Glaze offers Bigs and Littles a 15% discount when they present a BBBS Membership Card!

Take a Swing - One of the newest [Big Deal Discount Club partners](#), [Grand Slam USA](#), has batting cages, laser tag, basketball courts and more. Bigs and Littles get half-off batting, court time and inflatables.

Visit Your Alma Mater - If you went to college in the area, show your Little around campus, get a bite to eat in the student union or enjoy on-campus recreation, like bowling. It's a good way to get your Little thinking about college while sharing a little of your personal history.

April, May and June Events

Contact the sponsoring organization before you go to check for last-minute changes or cancellations!

Capitol Library Book Club - Littles ages 6-12 and their Bigs (or family members) are welcome to join the [Capitol Spine Crackers book club](#) group meeting on Wednesday afternoons. They'll begin by reading *Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis for four weeks. Registration required; please call 286-3006.

When: **Wednesdays, April 2-May 28**, 3:45 - 4:45 p.m.

Where: [Capitol Library](#) (3969 N. 74th St., Milwaukee)

Ages: 6-12

Cost: FREE

Milwaukee Zoo Free Day - Enjoy all the Zoo has to offer -- for free!

When: **Saturday, April 5**

Where: [Milwaukee County Zoo](#) (10001 W. Blue Mound Rd.)

Ages: All

Cost: FREE admission, Parking-\$10

Fishing Clinics - Members of local fishing clubs offer FREE [fishing instruction](#) for kids 15 and younger; adults are encouraged to participate. Equipment available but bring your own rod and reel if possible.

When: **Saturday, April 12**, every hour 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Where: [Various county parks](#) in Milwaukee and Waukesha

Ages: 15 and younger

Cost: FREE

Metroparent's KIDSfest - [KIDSfest](#) is two days of fun, entertainment, learning and hands-on activities. Enjoy six stages of entertainment, five themed areas, rock walls, bounce houses, a petting zoo, magicians, music, animal tricks and more.

When: **Saturday, April 12**, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and **Sunday, April 13**, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Where: State Fair Park Expo Center

Ages: All

Cost: FREE admission (small charge for some activities), Parking-\$5

Spring River Clean-up - Join the [annual clean-up](#) of the Milwaukee, Menomonee and Kinnickinnic rivers. Pre-register for a clean-up site by [contacting Erin Hartman](#) at Milwaukee River Keepers: (414) 287-0207, ext. 34.

When: **Saturday, April 19**, 9 a.m. - noon

Where: [33 locations](#) in the Milwaukee area

Ages: All

Cost: FREE

Earth Day Events - Celebrate Earth Day at one of the many FREE events happening in our area.

When: **Saturday, April 26**

Where:

[Retzer Nature Center](#) (Waukesha) - bird watching, hiking, kid activities and music, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

[Riverview Nature Center](#) (Newburg) - volunteer opportunities and lunch, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

[Havenwoods State Forest](#) (Milwaukee) - tree planting, scavenger hunt, crafts and more, 9

a.m. - 2 p.m.

[Charles Horwitz Planetarium](#) (Waukesha) - FREE planetarium shows, every hour 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Ages: All

Cost: FREE

UMOS Cinco de Mayo SpringFest - Celebrate an important day in Mexican history with music, food, carnival rides, face painting and more at this [Cinco de Mayo festival](#).

When: **Saturday, May 3** and **Sunday, May 4**, noon - 8 p.m.

Where: UMOS Center (2701 S. Chase Ave.)

Ages: All

Cost: FREE admission

Road America Tailgate Party - Kick off the racing season at [Road America](#) with a track tour, car show of all makes and models and the [SVRA Spring Vintage race](#) event. Bring your own tailgate picnic or purchase concessions.

When: **Saturday, May 17**, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Where: Road America (N7390 Highway 67, Elkhart Lake)

Ages: All

Cost: FREE admission through the Main Gate from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Family Kite Festival - The [21st annual Kite Festival](#) will showcase skillful performances from Wisconsin and Illinois kite-flying clubs. A grand launch of 500 kites will take place at noon.

When: **Saturday, May 24** and **Sunday, May 25**, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Where: Veterans Park, Milwaukee

Ages: All

Cost: FREE

Reclaiming Our Heritage - This [living history event](#) features encampments and reenactments from all major military eras in U.S. history. Activities during the weekend include a parade, Civil War demonstrations, fashion show and Kids Day.

When: **Saturday, May 31** and **Sunday, June 1**

Where: Grounds of the National Soldiers Home (5000 W. National Ave., Milwaukee)

Ages: All

Cost: FREE

State Parks Open House - No admission stickers are required on this day, so it's an ideal time to visit a Wisconsin State Park. Many parks have special events and refreshments for the occasion.

When: **Sunday, June 8**

Where: all [Wisconsin State Parks](#)

Ages: All

Cost: FREE

Old World Wisconsin Visitor Appreciation Day - Enjoy a significant discount on admission to [Old World Wisconsin](#), an outdoor museum of 19th- and early 20th-century settlements.

When: **Sunday, June 8**, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Where: Old World Wisconsin (S103 W37890 Hwy 67, Eagle)

Ages: All

Cost: Adults-\$4, Kids-\$2

Juneteenth Day Celebration - Juneteenth Day commemorates the end of slavery. Festivities begin with a parade and conclude with a street festival of entertainment and food.

When: **Thursday, June 19**, begins at 9 a.m.

Where: Martin Luther King Dr. between W. Center and W. Burleigh

Ages: All

Cost: FREE admission

Match Support Corner

In each Big Update, your Match Support Specialists -- Alison, Dan, Karina, Kelly, Kerry, Laura and Stacy -- offer tips to make your match relationship great.

Get [more match advice](#) on our web site under Mentoring Tools-Big Resources.

Teaching Kids to Give Back

Our Big Brothers and Sisters have clearly made volunteering a priority in their lives, and many of you are trying to pass this on to your Littles. **Taking the time to volunteer with your Little** is not only an opportunity to spend quality time together but also a way

to help teach your Little the important role that he or she plays in the community, a lesson that can last a lifetime.

We're trying to help by planning volunteer opportunities for matches. In December, matches volunteered in a music therapy group with residents of a nursing home. In March, Bigs and Littles assisted First Stage Children's Theater. **Look for upcoming BBBS volunteer opportunities**, including a park clean-up in April and a food drive in May.

Writing thank you notes with your Little is another way to impart the importance of giving back and showing appreciation. Individuals and businesses in our community generously donate tickets, passes and discounts to matches in our program. If you and your Little receive tickets, passes or a discount through our Big Deal Discount Club, it's great to encourage your Little to write a thank you note. Mail it to BBBS, and we will happily pass it on to the donor. You can send notes to Karina Simons, Big Brothers Big Sisters, 788 N. Jefferson St. Ste. 600, Milwaukee, WI 53202.

Contact Info

The Big Update is brought to you by...

Beth Fehlauer, Communications Coordinator
(414) 258-4778, ext. 244

Karina Simons, Match Support Coordinator
(414) 258-4778, ext. 256

Please note: *Inclusion in the Big Update newsletter does not constitute an endorsement by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Milwaukee or its staff. BBBS is not responsible for cancellations, changes or errors in dates, times or any other information regarding the events listed in the Big Update.*



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Milwaukee | 788 N Jefferson St Ste 600 | Milwaukee | WI | 53202-3739