

Hello Volunteer Applicant!

Thank you so much for starting the enrollment process with Big Brothers Big Sisters of London & Area. We are excited to start this process with you and begin to get to know you better.

This package was designed to help give you crucial information about becoming a volunteer with our agency.

Please read the following information prior to attending your volunteer interview.

If you have questions or concerns, please bring them with you when you attend your interview, our staff will be more than happy to discuss and elaborate about the process.

Vision and Mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters of London and Area

Vision: Provide quality mentoring programs to every young person in need.

Mission: We provide quality mentoring relationships to young people in need, helping them reach their potential.

Volunteer Opportunities at Big Brothers Big Sisters of London and Area

Big Brothers Big Sisters One to One Mentoring Program	This is our traditional one to one mentoring program for children and youth, ages 5-18. In this program we match children/youth with a volunteer mentor. This match spends 3-4 hours once week together, for the minimum of one year. Matches decide when they meet and what they would like to do together. Each match is unique and can foster a positive and strong connection for both the mentee and mentor.
CONNECT2Mentoring	CONNECT is an 8 week mentoring program that is offered to children 5-12 years of age, who are enrolled in the Community Based Program. This program focuses on teaching children about healthy relationships while having fun. CONNECT2Mentoring is offered three times a year (Oct-June) at various locations across the City of London.
Go Girls and Game On	Go Girls and Game On is a school based program for girls and boys in grades 7 and 8. This seven week program is facilitated by volunteer mentors in elementary schools who are between 18-25 years old. These two program (Go Girls for girls and Game On for boys) focuses on teaching students about healthy and active living, positive body image and self-esteem.
In-School Mentoring (ISM) Program	ISM is another school based program. Volunteer mentors are matched with a child at an elementary school. During the school year only mentors meet with their mentee in the school for one hour, once a week, during the school day. Matches can play games, crafts or other activities during their hour together.
Ethno-Racial Youth Mentoring Program (ERYM)	ERYM is a program for ethno-racial youth ages 5-18 and their mothers, combining group programming and 1:1 connections. Youth and Mother Mentors participate in arranged monthly group activities with youth and mother participants where relationships build naturally through interactions at the activities. Once a match is made, Mentors are asked to connect with the participant on a weekly basis. Mentors are asked to commit to one-year.
Administrative Volunteering	BBBSOLA is also interested in volunteers to help with office work! Clerical volunteering ensures that staff can provide quality service to families. Administrative volunteers donate a few hours a month to answering phones, front desk duties, filing and other clerical support.

Enrollment Process

The enrollment process is a **seven*** step process.

It is crucial that each of these **seven** steps is completed.

Step One	Application
Step Two	Volunteer Interview
Step Three	Volunteer Training
Step Four	Successful References Completed
Step Five	Clear Police Check (for Vulnerable Populations) Submitted to Agency
Step Six	Successful completion of a Home Assessment – for Big Brothers, Big Sisters and ERYM programs
Step Seven	Final Team Assessment

For some candidates there may be extra steps to enrollment not included in this guide

Step One: Application

An Application Form is available on the website, and must be completed prior to your interview. If you don't have access to the Internet, a hard copy will be made available.

Step Two: Volunteer Interview

The volunteer interview is conducted at our agency and takes approximately 1.5 hours. The purpose for this interview is to get to know you, learn about your strengths, and why you want to become a mentor.

Step Three: Volunteer Training

Our training comes in two parts, Program Specific and Strong From The Start Safety Training. You must successfully complete both parts of training to move on with the process.

The Program Specific training focuses on the role of mentor, the relationship, and expectations for you.

We will also cover our Strong From The Start Pre-Match Training, where we discuss safety and security and the support you can expect from the agency. Strong From The Start Training covers how to create strong, healthy friendships, and what you can do to ensure that you and your group of mentees are ready for a successful mentoring experience. At the end of Strong From The Start Training you will have learned about how to keep your group safe, both physically and emotionally.

Step Four: References

Below are the types of references you are required to submit:

*Personal reference**

*Family reference**

Employment reference

Volunteer reference (if applicable)

Significant other reference (if applicable)

These references must have known you for at least two years

References are submitted by means of an online form. Please bring these names and email addresses to your volunteer interview.

Step Five: Police Check

A new clear police check is also a requirement to any volunteer position within our organization.

If you have a clear vulnerable sector police check that has been done within the last six months, please bring it in.

Step Six: Home Assessment

BBBSOLA staff will visit volunteer applicant's home (Big Brothers, Big Sisters and ERYM programs only) to assess suitability for a child to visit.

Step Seven: Final Team Assessment

At the end of your enrollment, after references and police checks are completed successfully along with the above steps, a final team assessment is done. The team assessment is done by the Enrollment Team and ensures that all volunteer applicants being accepted into the program are meeting agency and National Standards, are able to commit to the length of time of program, can provide a safe and stable role model to youth and demonstrate an ability to value communication.

When this is complete, congratulations, you are an approved Big Brothers Big Sisters of London & Area mentor!

Our Location!

Big Brothers Big Sisters of London & Area

543 Ridout St. N.

London, Ontario

Phone: 519-438-7065

