



BIG News

May 2009

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Centre County

BBBS Activities happening in May
Call us at 237-5731 to sign up!

Games with residents at the Village

Thursday, May 7
4:00-5:00pm at the
Village at Penn State



Millbrook Marsh Stream Study (rescheduled from Fall 08)

Thursday, May 21
4:30-6:00pm at
Millbrook Marsh



*Come learn about stream study. Make sure you and your Little have shoes that can get wet and bring a towel!

A Special Goodbye

by Jodi Morelli, BBBS Program Coordinator

We at BBBS of Centre County would like to bid goodbye, good luck and a great BIG thank you to all of our graduating volunteers. With only weeks to go before you unfold a new chapter in your life, we want to wish you the best, and offer support as you prepare to transition away from your relationship with your Little. Although this is a time in your life filled with excitement and endless possibilities, saying goodbye is never easy. For our Littles, it is especially difficult to lose that someone they see as a role model and a friend. To help with this

difficult transition, we suggest that you cherish the remaining time you spend with your Little. Despite your busy schedules, we hope you will continue to strengthen your relationships and enjoy weekly contact as you work with them to prepare for the end of the match. Be honest with yourself about whether you will be able to remain in touch with your Little. Don't make promises that you can't keep. If you know that you can and will keep in touch with your Little, it is as simple as sending an e-mail or making a phone call.

Small efforts go a long way. You have the power to leave lasting memories of your friendship with them. For our kids who see you as their Big Brother or Sister, please remember that they will always look up to you and remember the fun you shared. Cherish the remaining time and enjoy each moment. Finally, and most importantly, THANK YOU all for making Big Brothers Big Sisters part of your college career and for taking time out of your life to make a difference in someone else.

BBBS of Centre County would like to thank all of our PSU volunteers. We hope to have you join us again in the Fall, but if you are graduating and moving on, we wish you the very best of luck. Have a great summer!



Safety First!

Children have the right to be safe at all times. The safety of the children in our program is our #1 priority. We expect everyone associated with the Centre County Youth Service Bureau to support children's safety and well-being.



JOKE TIME!

(Share these with your Little for a good laugh!)

If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring?

A. Pilgrims!

Can February March?

A. No, but April May!

What kind of flowers grow on faces?

A. Two-lips (tulips!)

"Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain love for one another."

Welcome New Bigs:

Mike Talone
Amy Lyon
Stacy Newburg



Happy Match
Anniversary!
Susan B. &
Alice - 7 years
(WOW!!!)

THANK YOU

*We really could not do what we do
without your generosity!

Milesburg Lions Club (speaking engagement)
Foxdale Village (speaking engagement)
Penn State Marketing Association
Delta Sigma Theta (activity)
The Village (activity)
YMCA (event space)
Health Policy Administration (HPA) club
Phi Gamma Nu
Mary Beth Chalfa (helped with Spring Fling)
State College Rotary Club (speaking
engagement)

Happy Birthday to YOU!

Sara Orr * Shari Block
Elaina Sabatine * Jessica Zehel
Jamie Zimmerman * Stephanie
Smith * Kristen Silvestri
Kira Jerzerick * Melissa Troop
Julianne Mc Ginn
Mary Rohrer-Dann

Swimming Safety!

**As the weather turns this season, many of you will plan on taking your Little swimming.
Please review the following information regarding swimming safely!**

- *Be aware of your Little's swimming ability and confidence before taking them on an activity. If the child is scared of swimming, please do not force them to swim. Also, you should make sure the parent approves of the activity.
- *We encourage you to use a swimming area that has a certified lifeguard on duty. You may swim where there is no lifeguard, but you must be attentive and have safety as your utmost concern for your Little.
- *Don't swim in areas that are dirty or unsafe (glass, garbage, environmental debris, etc.)
- *Don't swim during thunderstorms, at night, or if the weather is too cold.
- *Encourage your Little to use sunscreen. They should apply it themselves, or have their parents apply it before they leave the house. Encourage the use of sunglasses and/or hats).
- *Make sure your Little has a private changing area if changing is necessary.
- *Encourage kids to use devices that will help them to feel more safe in the water, e.g., floaties, life jackets, goggles, etc.
- *Swim with your Little but avoid rough play in the water. Make sure kids walk in the pool area and swim only in a depth that makes them comfortable. Keep safety your number one priority!



The last two times I set up a meeting time with my Little, I showed up and no one was there. I have re-scheduled again but am starting to feel frustrated. Should I talk with the family or just brush it off?

Feedback from Vernel Smith, Case Manager

I agree this can be very frustrating. My first suggestion would be to remember that it is possible that something came up and the family may have forgotten. This happens to us all. Secondly, I would suggest that you go ahead and make a reminder call a day or so in advance. Sometimes it is good to remind the family that you are scheduled to be there on a certain day and time. Another suggestion would be to take along a calendar to mark your upcoming meeting times. Go ahead and put your name and phone number on the calendar for easy access and leave it with your Little's family. It is okay to let the family know that you really look forward to meeting with your Little. Ask if changing the day and or time would work better for them and what you could do to make it easier. As the case manager, I should also be made aware of the situation so that I can contact the family. I can check in to make sure there are no underlying concerns.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Centre County
410 South Fraser Street
State College, PA 16801