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# MATCH SUPPORT NEWSLETTER

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF METRO ATLANTA



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## Celebrating Cultural Diversity!

BY SUSAN STUBBS, EDITOR

When children learn about a culture different from their own, a world of possibilities opens up. New sounds, language, dress, cuisine, songs, and stories — all arouse curiosity and inspire exploration. Even more importantly, learning about a new culture cultivates an enthusiasm for understanding and appreciating diverse ways of living, facilitating positive regard, open-mindedness, and sharing an implicit message: Our differences are valuable and honorable. (Parent Map)

The following are the many ways that matches can support cultural diversity:

- ✓ Watch documentaries about other countries together
- ✓ Listen to world music
- ✓ Host a cultural diversity party and bring different dishes and share other customs
- ✓ Visit cultural centers or museums
- ✓ Learn a new language through apps such as Babble or DuoLingo
- ✓ Volunteer together and take care of communities

# MATCH HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH



BY LEO RODRIGUEZ

SENIOR MATCH SUPPORT SPECIALIST

Big Brother **Ryan** and Little Brother **Erik** have been matched since December 2016. Erik's mom describes the relationship as "the best thing that ever happened to my son." They have a typical brotherly relationship that involves playing video games, grilling hot dogs and burgers, and going to the dog park. Erik loves animals, mainly dogs, and since he is not allowed to have one, he has created a great relationship with Ryan's dog and always looks forward to playing with him and showing him love and affection. Ryan tries to keep his outings with his Little Brother as balanced as he can, incorporating fun as well as educational time. Regularly, he helps Erik with his reading, something that has been challenging for Erik in the past. In addition to being supportive of his Little Brother, Big Brother Ryan also coordinates closely with Erik's mom. He communicates well with her and works as a team player by participating in school meetings so that he can be a part of helping Erik further succeed. Because of that extra effort, Erik has now made improvements with his reading and his mom could not be more grateful. On a recent update, Ryan was asked to describe his Little to someone who'd never met him before. Ryan responded, "He is a good-hearted, funny, and energetic kid who loves sports, and always maintains a positive attitude!" Ryan and Erik have also supported BBBSMA and participated in events such as Fashion Play.



## Match Tip of the Month:

"Celebrate Culture!"

Have an open discussion about the importance of culture and discuss the beauty of its similarities and differences. Be willing to learn about one another's backgrounds and understand the different values that each of you brings to the table.

- By Shaheim Page, SMSS

# MATCH ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

**V** Virtual Event    **O** Ongoing BBBSMA Partnership    **I** In Person    **R** Resource

## ● BBBSMA's Discovery STEAM Pop-Up

The various hands-on activities will allow participants to develop their engineering, design thinking, and project management skills! Moreover, music, food, and drinks will be provided! Matches are invited to attend on Saturday, 09/24 at the BBBS HQ from 10 am – 1 pm and click [here](#) to register. **I**

## ● Movies on the Square

Kick back, relax and enjoy movie night in Midtown's Living Room! Film classics will take over the jumbo screen starting at 7 PM on the first Thursday of the month from April to October. Click [here](#) for more info. **I**

## ● Kids Quetzal Craft

Matches can spark each other's creativity with this easy Guatemalan quetzal craft! It is a great way to celebrate Guatemala's independence day for Hispanic Heritage Month. The quetzal is Guatemala's national bird and it symbolizes liberty and is part of the Guatemalan coat of arms. This event is for kids ages 6-10. Click [here](#) for more info. **I**

## ● BBBSMA's STE(A)M TRUCK

In partnership with BBBSMA, matches will have the opportunity to engage in activities that involve science, technology, engineering, arts, and math. Workshops will be held every second Saturday of the month and the next one will be on 10/08 from 10 am- 12 pm at BBBSMA. To sign up, click [here](#) and space is limited. **NOTE: There is no workshop for September.** **I O**

## ● UPS Second Sunday at High Museum of Art

On the second Sunday of each month, they offer FREE admission for all visitors and special family-friendly programming! Enjoy art-making activities, performances, and the High's permanent collection and special exhibitions. Click [here](#) for more info. **I**

## ● Latino Hispanic Cultural Heritage Celebration

This **FREE** event will provide matches an opportunity to experience performances, art, and food from various countries. It will be held on 09/18 @ 1pm. Click [here](#) for more info.

## Mentoring Resources to Empower Bigs

### ARTICLES / VIDEOS

- [Building Relationships: A Guide for New Mentors](#)
- [Diversity Discussion Starters](#)
- [Back to School Inspirational Mentoring Stories \(video\)](#)
- [Culture Matters: Strategies to Support Youth](#)
- [100 Ideas to Use When Mentoring Youth](#)
- [How to help your mentee set and achieve their own goals](#)

### WEBSITES

- [BBBSMA's Match Resources](#)
- [Atlanta Parent Magazine \(outing ideas\)](#)
- [ATL Bigs](#) on Facebook
- [MENTOR](#)
- [Mentorga](#)
- [The Search Institute](#)
- [PFLAG](#) (supports LGBTQ+)



# TEEN CENTRAL

Teen Central is a resource page supported by the Big Futures initiative that contains valuable resources available through our agency and in the community including scholarships, career programs, workshops, and more to support BBBSMA's teens and their future.

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## ★ Big Futures' College Essay Writing Info. Session

In collaboration with Equal Edge, high school juniors and seniors are highly encouraged to attend this info. session on Saturday, 09/10 @ 11am. Students will learn how to get started with this **FREE** service, how to compose strong essays, and write their way into the college of their choice! Click [here](#) to register. **V O**

## ★ Delta Community Credit Union HBCU Scholarship

Education is the key to success, and V-103 and Delta Community Credit Union want to help youth succeed. In 2022, Delta Community will award \$20,000 in scholarships to select students of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), and here's a chance for Littles to apply. Click [here](#) for more info. **R**

## ★ Georgia Driver's Education Scholarship Program for Teens

This 36-hour driving course is designed to teach the fundamentals of driving. Students will participate in 30 hours of classroom instruction (5-days) and 6 hours of behind-the-wheel instruction. **NOTE:** The driver must have a valid learner's permit. Click [here](#) for more info. **I**

## ★ BBBSMA's Big Futures High School Resources

Whether a high school Little is considering higher education, military service, or preparing to join the workforce, our online resources include college roadmaps, life skills, life paths, and the future planning form that will help Little be prepared for their journey. Click [here](#) to access the resources on our website. **R**

## ★ BBBSMA's College Financial Aid Workshop

October is FAFSA month! Learn about the financial aid process, FAFSA application, and more! All junior and senior high school matches and families are highly encouraged to attend. More information to come on how to RSVP for this upcoming event!

## ★ Introduction to Entrepreneurship for Teens

This exceptional program targets young entrepreneurs eager to learn how to build and market their own products. From ideation to the big pitch! The program will end in May 2023 with a showcase and the opportunity to win prizes including \$500 for first place. Click [here](#) for more info. **I**

# IMPORTANT REMINDERS

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## Communication with your Match Support Specialist

Maintaining consistent communication with us is vital to the success of your match relationship and please inform us of any challenges that you are experiencing or questions you may have so we can work through them together. Ensure to also schedule your appointment on a timely basis by using our scheduling system and keep in mind that a lack of communication may lead to match closure.

## Survey Completion

The Strength of Relationship survey is important for Bigs and Littles to complete because it allows us to better understand how your match is progressing. It is a short survey to complete and you will receive an automated reminder via email and text. Please ensure to complete it because it provides valuable feedback for us to know how to better support your relationship.

## Important Update Regarding Overnight Stays

Please be advised that overnight stays will no longer be permitted between Bigs and Littles as of 1/1/2022. Big Brothers Big Sisters of America headquarters have decided this is in the best interest of our matches. If you have any further questions regarding this change, talk to your Match Support Specialist for guidance and support.

*\*Note: this change is relevant for matches made prior to 1/1/2018. If you were matched after this date, overnight stays were never allowed.*

## COVID-19 Match Safety Checklist

Safety and health will always be our main priorities for our community-based matches. If your match decides to meet in person, we strongly encourage all matches to follow the [CDC](#) guidelines:

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- ✔ get vaccinated and boosted to protect yourself and others
  - ✔ wear a proper mask, use hand sanitizer and wash hands often
  - ✔ monitor your health daily and be aware of any symptoms
  - ✔ choose to do an activity that provides social distancing
  - ✔ discuss the level of exposure and comfortability in the community for all parties in the match, including parent/guardian
  - ✔ meet in an open, well-ventilated area and avoid groups of people



If a Big or Little has been infected or exposed, please **DO NOT** meet in person. Quarantine yourself for the time recommended by the CDC and ensure you test negative before resuming outings. You can continue to maintain the relationship through phone or virtual chats and reach out to your MSS for further support.