

FCCNY Bigs & Littles Program!

This flexible, just-for-fun social program is for all regions, ages, and genders. The goal is to get FCC kids together, one-on-one, for ongoing companionship, friendship, and enjoyment.

Bigs, ages 9–18, will be matched with Littles, ages 1–12. (Those in the 9–12 age range can choose to be a Big, Little or both.) Geography will be our priority, although we'll take into consideration ages, interests and requests.

From late September 2009 through June 2010, we ask that you commit to at least:

- 1 email or online contact per month
- 1 snail mail contact per month (letter, art project, photo, etc.)
- 1 face-to-face contact per month (unless we can't find you a local match)

There are no mandatory meetings. Face-to-face contact can be handled in any way you prefer—although we'll offer plenty of suggestions and hope all the participants will make suggestions! A stipend will be offered to families wanting to hold a small gathering, plan an outing or buy group-rate show or event tickets. But one-on-one meetings at the playground, after school or over a snack are also fine.

We're planning for some small surprises and treats along the way, too!

This program qualifies for community service credit, FCC GuanYin Project Service, school service programs and letters of recommendation. Want to know more about the FCC GuanYin Project? Visit

<https://www.fccny.org/resources/GUANYIN%20PROJECT.pdf>

Register at www.fccny.org by September 15, 2009. The charge is \$10 per Big or Little per year, and current FCCNY membership is required. (Fee waivers/scholarships available.) Once you sign up, you'll receive links to the application and the Yahoo group, our primary method of communication. Matches will be made in mid-September.

FAQ

Why a fee?

We will request an FCCNY grant to cover all administrative expenses, like postage. All of the fee money will go directly into a pool, to cover the gathering stipends (see below).

Gatherings Stipend

Parents wishing to hold small, informal gatherings or outings will be offered a small stipend from the registration fees. Amount is based on receipts and grants. Gatherings are not restricted--if a family or region wants to have a bigs-only gathering, a group outing, a family gathering, regular meetings, that's fine. Nothing is mandatory! Every family/region who participates should tailor the program to their own interests and get together with whomever they want, in whatever way works.

Contact

All Big/Little families must join the Yahoo group and allow either Daily Digest or Emails from Administrators. This will be the primary method of all-group contact. For direct contact, FCC will only give out parents emails and phone numbers. If families choose to exchange the kids personal emails/numbers (if they have them), that's their prerogative.

Community Service

Please keep the time sheet up to date! (It will be appended to the Yahoo group for download.) We will assume 30 minutes per email and snail mail, unless it was something elaborate that took more time. We can give credit for GuanYin, school service, letters of recommendation, etc., on letterhead. Just ask.

Time Period

From September through June, members are required to send 1 email, 1 snail mail, and have 1 face-to-face per month. (September face-to-face is waived.) More is encouraged! After June, participants can request the same partner the following year, add another partner, or change.

Suggestions

All members and their families are encouraged to use the Yahoo group to post any suggestions you have for websites, snail mail, local venues, events, and any other ideas. Photos, documents, and links are also welcomed.

More Questions? Contact Jennifer Maslowski at jennem22@yahoo.com or 917-509-2861.