



Bigs and Littles: Matching

Often the most significant relationship that an individual will have throughout their time as a Member is the one with their Big. This bond forms early since each Initiate must be paired with a Collegiate or Alumni Member as a constitutional requirement of the Initiation Program. The role of the Big is to guide their Little and provide support throughout their time as an Initiate. While the Big begins as a mentor for the Little, many Big/Little relationships extend far beyond Induction and develop into lifelong friendships.

Here are some ways to foster strong bonds before, during and after the match:

Foster Early Interactions

The more effort you put into helping potential Bigs and Potential New Members connect with one another early, the better chance you have of making a strong match. Hosting a Speed Friending event during Recruitment will help to get PNMs associated with potential Bigs early while increasing retention.

Facilitate Meaningful Connections

Matching Bigs and Littles gives Members a purpose while Initiates have the support they need to make it to Induction. Taking the time to make a great match will ensure that everyone's expectations for the Big/Little relationship are met.

Encourage Bonding

Once the match is made, Bigs and Littles should be encouraged to meet regularly to get to know each other better. Planned events can help to bring Bigs and Littles together throughout the Initiation Program.

Ways to Make the Match

It is the Initiate Advisor's responsibility to match Bigs and Littles, but there is virtually no limit to the number of ways that this can be done. While some Chapters may prefer a wild card method where the match is random, it's usually a good idea to capitalize on commonalities when making the match.

Consider making matches based on one of the following:

- Mutual selection via a survey
- Common answers to questions
- Prior connection outside of the Chapter
- Great interactions at Recruitment Events
- Major
- Key personality traits
- Hobbies and interests
- Favorite color
- Hometown or region
- Musical interests or talents
- Sports, teams or positions played
- Similar backgrounds
- Favorite book or author
- Special skills or talents
- Future career
- Shared sense of humor