



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Guelph



ENVIRON-MENTORING
PROGRAM

2017 Final Report

Prepared for:



Ontario Wildlife Foundation

In 2017, thanks to funding from the **Ontario Wildlife Foundation**, 191 children participated in programming through the BBBSG Environ-Mentoring Program. In addition to the events scheduled through our partnership with the Grand River Conservation Authority, our matches and groups have taken the initiative to enjoy and explore the surroundings and wildlife on their own. While they have been participating in program favourites like canoeing, caving, and snowshoeing, they have also organized wilderness hikes and tours of local farms. Clearly their appreciation for nature and conservation has been positively impacted by their time with Environ-Mentoring!



Program Evaluation

Effectiveness of the program was measured on the following:

1. The number of youth attending as compared to the number that enroll (to gauge initial interest)
2. The number of children that wish to attend multiple sessions (to gauge long term interest)
3. Whether the attending children feel the classes are valuable (to gauge effectiveness)
4. The volunteers' assessment of the program's value for the attending children (to gauge program relevancy and improvements for the future)

In terms of program effectiveness, our collected data has shown very positive trends through 2017:

1. Out of 203 youth enrolled in the Environ-Mentoring Program, 191 attended the sessions, indicating a 94.1% positive attendance. This leads us to conclude that the interest from the local youth is high enough to engage them in the programming.
2. 97.3% of the responding youth expressed that they would like to return for additional sessions in the future! This indicates that long-term interest in the program is also high, and that participating youth would continue to attend multiple sessions.
3. 94.3% of the youth surveyed related information about the material they learned during the day, some of which are included in the testimonials section. This indicates that the children are effectively learning about their surroundings their place in it.
4. The responses from the volunteer mentors continue to be positive, with all of them praising the relevance of the GRCA programming and the knowledge and experience of the participating staff. Also, as evidenced by their desire to seek out additional sessions beyond those scheduled, the participants are showing a greater awareness of and appreciation for our local conservation programs.

Fund Usage Outline

The funds provided by Ontario Wildlife Foundation went towards all areas of the program budget, as outlined in our request and shown below. As with last year, the bulk of OWF's funding supported primary project needs such as staffing and education program costs.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Guelph is very grateful to OWF for making this year of the Environ-Mentoring Program the best yet! The improvements we have made to the program planning, delivery, and evaluation would not have been possible without you. We were especially delighted to celebrate Earth Day and Canada's 150th with a special event, and we are pleased to see increased interest in conservation among our program participants. We are looking forward to continuing to offer Environ-Mentoring in the future with OWF's support.



Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Darryl Blake'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Darryl Blake, Development Writer
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Guelph