



**Big Brothers Big Sisters**  
of Guelph



**ENVIRON-MENTORING**  
PROGRAM

2018 Final Report

Prepared for:



**Ontario Wildlife Foundation**

We've reached an amazing milestone, because 2018 marked the fifth year since BBBSG launched the *Environ-Mentoring Program*! This incredible achievement could simply not have been possible without the support of the **Ontario Wildlife Foundation**. In 2018, **177 attendees** participated in environmental stewardship programming through the Environ-Mentoring Program! Our partnership with the Grand River Conservation Authority continues to be extremely beneficial to our at-risk youth, and our matches continue to surprise us by finding new and interesting outings that help them explore their surroundings and learn about the local wildlife.



### 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 programs 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 2018:

1. Out of the 179 participants that enrolled in the Environ-Mentoring Program, 177 attended the sessions, indicating a **98.9%** positive attendance! This degree of interest in the offered programming after five years indicates that our mentors and mentees are aware of how interesting (and fun!) the sessions will be.
2. **100%** of the responding youth expressed that they would like to return for additional sessions in the future! This level of maintained interest in Environ-Mentoring demonstrates the long-term viability of the program; after five years, our Bigs and Littles still keep asking for more!
3. **92.9%** of the youth surveyed related information about the material they learned during the day. This indicates that the children are effectively learning about their surroundings and their place in them, and that the GRCA education staff is consistently presenting interesting and engaging material.
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.

We are overjoyed at the success that the Environ-Mentoring Program has become since its launch in 2014, and we are so grateful to OWF for making this happen! We work closely with GRCA education staff to offer new, interesting sessions, while our Bigs and Littles also love attending old favourites like canoeing and caving. The program continues to grow and thrive, and our matches keep looking for other opportunities to explore their surroundings and learn about wildlife outside of the GRCA sessions! We are delighted to be developing our at-risk youth into conservation stewards who care about the local and global environment, and we are thankful to have OWF's support to do so!



Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Darryl Blake'.

Darryl Blake, Development Writer  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Guelph