

# Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring program needs volunteers

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[The 78th Annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally](#) is well under way, which serves as a reminder that school is back in session at the end of the month.

The Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Black Hills mentoring program "Adopt-A-Classroom" is in need of roughly 80 volunteers as they have recently taken on every first-grade classroom at General Beadle Elementary School.

A "big," as mentors are referred to, spends one hour a week reading with their "little" and forming a bond along the way. The hope is that the matches stay together until the student graduates high school. The program has helped area students read at a higher level.

"Last year alone, there was 79 percent increase in their reading results, and that was in comparison to our control group, so they are making huge strides," says Big Brothers Big Sisters Executive Director Nicole Burdick.

The best time to apply to be a mentor is now, as an application may take a few weeks to process. Mentors need to be at least 16 years old to volunteer.