

Description

The bond between Big and Little is one of the most prominent bonds between the members of a Greek organization. These bonds between Bigs and Littles create long lineages of families within the organization. The process of determining who is paired with who varies among chapters and organizations. In a majority of Greek Organizations, members pick out or are assigned a Little.

After joining an organization, one becomes a Little. After the next pledge class joins, the Littles from the last pledge class, or members who did not previously take Littles, have the opportunity to become Bigs. Having a Little is a big responsibility, and it is important to choose a Little who you can relate to in ways other than just being in the same organization. In some organizations the Bigs are assigned a Little, however, in most organizations the Bigs – and Littles – will get some say in who they will be paired with.

As a Big, you are responsible for mentoring and helping your Little, and most likely you will become close friends with them over your remaining years in college. Your Little will also be able to bond with the rest of your family, who are more likely older members in the organization. This gives the new members the opportunity to get to know the older members before they graduate.

The search for the perfect Little can begin very early on. It is a good idea to be considering potential new members that you consistently see throughout recruitment. However, you have to be careful doing this because they do not always end up joining your organization. The best way to choose your Little is to wait until all of the new members have joined. Get to know all of the new members, or as many as you possibly can. The process of finding a Little is different for everyone and sometimes requires patience. Some people find their Little right away and for some it takes more time to decide if the person they are choosing would be a good match for them. Sometimes, people can be paired with someone they have never met before. If this happens to you, do not worry, you will get to know them.

Overall, the process of finding your Little can be stressful, but exciting. Trying to find a Little is a great way to get to know the newest members of your organization. You can continue to get to know new members as you become older by trying to find a Little for your Little. The Big-Little process is a great way to continue to strengthen the bonds between members within an organization.

Step-by-step Instructions

1. Determine whether or not you want a Little
 - ❖ Note: having a Little big responsibility; you will need to dedicate a lot of your time to your Little. Also you are likely to spend a fair amount of money on buying things for your Little.

2. If you decide that you do want a Little, decide if you want Twins
 - ❖ You do not have to decide right away if you want to take Twins or not. After meeting all of the new members, you may find that you really like two and in this case, you would take twins.
 - ❖ Keep in mind, taking Twins will require doubling all of the responsibilities you will have from taking a Little.
 - ❖ Note: Depending on the size of the new pledge class and the number of older girls taking Littles, taking Twins may not be an option.

3. Start looking for the perfect Little
 - ❖ During Recruitment
 - Be sure to keep an eye out for potential Littles during recruitment. This is when some people find their Little.
 - Caution: The potential Littles you meet during recruitment may not end up joining your organization.
 - ❖ After Recruitment
 - A lot of organizations will have activities planned for after recruitment so that the older members can start to get to know the new members. These activities usually include game nights and dinners so that you can talk to the new members and see who has common interests.
 - Keep in mind which new members you seem to have a connection with and try to meet with them again before it is time to decide who you want to be you Little.

4. Decide on multiple potential Littles
 - ❖ It is best to choose multiple new members who you would like to have as your Little. While you can have a favorite who you really want, do not be completely heart set on just one.
 - ❖ Note: Some other members taking Littles may want the same new member as you, so it is best to have other options as well.

5. Let the person pairing Bigs and Littles know who you want as your Little
 - ❖ Each organization pairs Bigs and Littles differently. In some, it is your responsibility to find the person in charge of the pairings and let them know who you would like as your Little. In others you may fill out a survey listing your top ten. And in some they are automatically assigned.

6. Find out who your Little is
 - ❖ You will probably find out who your Little is a week or so before Clue Week so that you can have time to finish all of your gifts.
 - ❖ Get excited! It is important to be excited about your Little, even if you do not know them, because they are definitely excited about their Bigs. You are also about to get a brand new “little sibling” who you will share many memories with.

Glossary

Baskets: An assortment of gifts that are given to Littles during Clue Week. These gifts are usually placed in a basket.



Big: An older member in the organization who acts as a mentor to a new member.

Chapter: A group of an organization's members on a certain college campus.

Clue Week: The week before new members find out who their mentors are. The Littles generally receive baskets and clues to who their Big may be.

Family: The group that forms as Littles become Bigs. Usually will consist of a Great Grand Big (the most senior member in the group) followed by a Grand Big, then the Big, and then the Little. These will usually go back as far as the organizations establishment on the campus and can become very complicated.



Greek Organization: Fraternities or Sororities consisting of members who share similar values. These organizations can consist of men, women, or men and women. There are many types of these organizations such as social, service, honorary, or professional.

Little: A new member in the organization.

Pledge Class: A group of members who joined the organization at the same time. Usually stated as time of joining followed by the year, i.e. Spring '14.



Potential New Member (PNM): People going through the recruitment process that could potentially join your organization.

Recruitment: The process for people wanting to join a Greek organization of meeting people in the different organizations on their campus and potentially joining one of those organization.

Twins: Two new members who share an older member as their mentor.