



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of the Black Hills

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

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Big Brothers Big Sister of the Black Hills and Carry the Flame Partner for Children of Deployed Military Personnel

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Black Hills and the national Carry the Flame organization are partnering to provide positive outdoor experiences for children of deployed military personnel. King Cavalier (Carry the Flame founder) states, "Over 1,000,000 military kids have now been affected by the deployment, disability or loss of one or both parents serving on our orders in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2003. We recognize that military service involves the entire extended family of the person wearing the uniform. This is an important step to provide care for the impact of service on the military family and particularly in the lives of military kids."

Using the proven practices of Big Brothers Big Sisters for screening and training mentors seemed to be the perfect fit. Ellsworth Air Force base is just adjacent to the Rapid City Community and Big Brothers Big Sisters already had a positive

relationship in place with a school mentoring program at Douglas Schools on base for many years. Opportunities will now open for children of deployed military personnel to be matched with a mentor who enjoys time in the outdoors through the South Dakota Youth Hunting Adventures program. Children will have not only the opportunity to spend quality time with a seasoned friend in the beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota but will be trained by avid outdoorsmen and women to respect nature and the environment. "It's a win-win," states Mary Victor, director of Big Brothers Big Sisters. "We have a proven system in place to match children with screened qualified adults, military personnel have children who would enjoy having an adult mentor them in various outdoor experiences, and Carry the Flame is assisting us in raising money to fund the project. Once the first year is completed, we hope to offer this program as a model that can be replicated throughout the country."

The Carry the Flame organization has contributed \$2500 as seed money to begin this worthwhile endeavor. Watch the progress of the Carry the Flame nationwide tour at: www.carrytheflame.org.