

## HAVING WHEEL FUN! BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS TEAM UP WITH WHEEL FUN RENTALS FOR OUTDOOR ENJOYMENT

JUN 17 • EXTRA! EXTRA! FEATURE, FEATURE MAIN • NO COMMENTS ON HAVING WHEEL FUN! BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS TEAM UP WITH WHEEL FUN RENTALS FOR OUTDOOR ENJOYMENT

"You'll thank me for choosin' you / to come and have some fun / on a bicycle built for two..." So goes "Bicycle Built for Two," a children's nursery rhyme crafted for friendship. It is in the spirit of companionship and happiness that Wheel Fun Rentals, a nationwide franchise with a Carolina Beach location, will once again partner with the Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) nonprofit organization this summer.

Wheel Fun Rentals will provide free bike rentals to Big Brothers and Sisters and their "Littles" across the nation. The program itself originated in 2006 so BBBS could have access to free rentals any time they're together with their "little siblings." It isn't just limited to bikes, either. The rentals range from bicycles to Surrey cycles, kayaks to canoes, and much more. Across America over 5,000 Biking Buddies passes have been distributed to BBBS volunteers in 2014—that equates to around \$125,000. It ensures these volunteers always have something fun, fit and free to do with each other.

"We chose to partner with BBBS because they target children who would benefit the most from mentorship and wholesome qualities activities," Sheena Walenta, marketing director at Wheel Fun Rentals, says. "Physical activity builds confidence and resiliency, releases endorphins, is good for the body, nurtures the soul, and is all about fun!"

Named the number one recreational rental companies in the United States, Wheel Fun Rentals has two locations, both in Carolina Beach. The company was founded in 1987 and expanded from its original four-wheel Surrey Cycles to include bike rentals and bike tours. It offers family friends fun at affordable prices. "At Wheel Fun Rentals, we like to see children moving, biking, paddling, laughing, and enjoying the great out doors," Walenta says.

As for the partnership with BBBS, which is entering its eighth year, this free and fun outdoor bonding experience comes to tens of thousands of pairs across the nation. Lonna Radford, a member of the BBBS advisory board says, "This is a great gesture that will bring lots of fun to our Littles. It's these types of activities that mean so much to them and may be something they wouldn't get to try otherwise."

Considering the numerous video games and screens attracting today's youth, it provides an opportunity to reconnect with the nature. Plus, it helps the kids connect with people in doing fun activities together.

A Big Volunteer at BBBS out of the San Diego Chapter says, "My 'Little,' Joey, and I always have a blast on the rental bikes. I know the time spent on the rental products makes a big impact in his life."

"When Little Brothers and Little Sisters feel good about themselves, they can positively impact their friends, families, their schools and their communities," says Karen J. Mathis, president and CEO of Big Brother Big Sisters of America. "[These] young people believe in themselves because a Big Brother or Big Sister believed in them."

BBBS started in New York in 1904 and since has spread across America. Over the last 110 years, the program has provided one-on-one mentoring for children from ages 6 to 18. Children benefiting from BBBS are less likely to skip school and use illegal drugs, and are more likely to get along with their families and peers, according to BBBS statistics.

Children in the program are offered the opportunity to form relationships with their "brothers and sisters" that give them benefits those outside the program do not have. They learn how to form better relationships, and their mentors keep them striving for achievement. The program generates lasting, positive friendships. The application process is simple and can be found on the BBBS website. Registering a child for the program is free.

### DETAILS:

#### Wheel Fun Rentals and Big Brothers Big Sisters

107 Carolina Beach Ave N

(910) 458-4545

[www.wheelfunrentals.com](http://www.wheelfunrentals.com)

Big Brothers Big Sisters

[www.bbbs.org](http://www.bbbs.org)



Above: Bicycles, Surrey cycles, kayaks, and canoes all are offered to the Big Brothers Big Sister nonprofit for free, courtesy of Wheel Fun Rentals. Courtesy photo



## Big Brothers Big Sisters

active BBBS Big Brothers Big Sisters bikes Cassie Weber children encore magazine Karen J. Mathis Nonprofit outdoors partnership Sheena Walenta Surrey cycles Wheel Fun Rentals Wilmington NC

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## EVENTCALENDAR

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY

25



4:00 PM



**Living With Grief**

Phillips LifeCare & Counseling C...

5:30 PM



**Boseman Gallery Opening: All Student**

UNCW Boseman Art Gallery

6:00 PM



**Pedaling for Pages Bicycle Book Club**

Old Books on Front St.

6:00 PM



**Neighborhood Food Truck Night**

Burnt Mill Creek

6:00 PM



**Patriot Act & Democracy Salon**

Ironclad Brewery

6:30 PM



**Benny Hill (Jazz)**

The Felix Cafe

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