

Brothers As Allies: Testing the Efficacy of a Strengths-Based Curriculum Parent Information

We are writing to inform you about the Brothers as Allies program and the corresponding research that will be done in regard to this program at your child's afterschool or youth program. We will ask your child to participate in a research study titled "Brothers as Allies: Testing the Efficacy of a Strengths-Based Curriculum". We will describe this study to you and encourage you to ask questions.

This study is being led by Janis Whitlock, Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research at Cornell University. Please ask any questions by contacting Janis Whitlock at jlw43@cornell.edu or at (607)254-2894. You can also call or text Amanda Purington at 607-216-8794 or email Sara Komoroske at sara.komoroske@ppcwny.org with any questions you have about this study or to opt out of the study.

What the program and study are about

The Brothers as Allies program, part of the Council for Boys and Young Men, is a strengths-based group approach to promote boys' and young men's safe and healthy passage through pre-teen and adolescent years. This particular program is designed to promote healthy and positive relationships with male and female peers as well as with adults.

The purpose of the research study is to compare participant outcomes. Some youth participants in this research study will be part of the Brothers as Allies program and some will be part of regular afterschool or youth programming. We will ask youth participants in both groups to answer a series of surveys.

What we will ask your child to do

If he agrees, we will ask your child to answer 4 surveys over about nine months. The first survey will be right before they begin programming and the second will be 10 weeks later, which is the amount of time it takes to complete the Brothers as Allies program. The third survey will be 3 months after the second survey and the fourth survey will be 3 months after the third survey. Each survey will take about 30-40 minutes to complete.

The surveys ask questions about your child's relationships with other boys and girls as well as with adults. It also asks questions about how your child thinks and feels about issues such as bullying, harassment, relationships, and dating. It does include several questions about sexual assault and harassment, since this is part of what we are hoping the program will affect. It also includes questions on communication styles, caring and cooperation, social support, and healthy decision making.

Risks and discomforts

Though many survey questions ask about positive experiences, there are some questions that might be sensitive for some youth. For example, there are questions about experiences with bullying, harassment, and violence. These questions may lead to your child feeling some discomfort. Our program facilitators are trained to address these issues and will be available to talk with your child. Our program facilitators can also provide you and your child with additional resources and referrals if your child experiences any discomfort or if you want more information. We do not anticipate any other risks from participating in this research.

Benefits

There are no direct benefits for youth participants. However, we hope that boys participating in the Brothers as Allies program will learn relationship skills and build strong, healthy connections with peers and adults. If we learn the Brothers as Allies program works as we expect it will, youth study participants who were in the regular afterschool/youth programming will be invited to participate in the Brothers as Allies program when the study is complete.

This research will help other people now or in the future implement better programs with middle school-aged boys, helping them develop and maintain positive, healthy relationships with peers and adults.

All study participants will get a short summary of the study findings when it is complete. This information will be available on the website www.actforyouth.net/brothers. You can also call or text Amanda Purington at 607-216-8794 to let us know another way to send you this summary, if you would prefer.

Compensation for participation

As a thank-you for filling in the survey, we will give your child cash or cash equivalent after each survey. Your child will receive \$10 after the first survey, \$20 after the second survey, \$30 after the third survey, and \$40 after the fourth survey.

Privacy/Confidentiality/Data Security

Your child's name will never be connected to survey responses. Though we will document your child's name and contact information so we can keep in touch, this will never be connected to survey responses. Your child will be assigned a random ID number and this is the only ID that will be collected with survey responses. Your child's name and contact information will be kept separately, on a password-protected, secure server. Never will a single person be able to connect your names and responses. All survey responses will be stored on an encrypted, secure server. We anticipate that your child's participation in this research presents no greater risk than everyday use of the Internet.

Data Sharing

De-identified data from this study may be shared with the research community at large to advance science and health. We will remove or code any personal information that could identify your child before files are shared with other researchers to ensure that, by current scientific standards and known methods, no one will be able to identify your child from the information we share. Despite these measures, we cannot guarantee anonymity of your child's personal data.

Taking part is voluntary

Your child's participation in this research is voluntary. Your child may refuse to participate before the study begins, stop at any time, or skip any questions that may make him feel uncomfortable. There is no penalty for this, and refusing to participate will have no effect on your child's relationship with the afterschool/youth program or Cornell University. If your child refuses to participate, he will join regular afterschool/youth programming or participate in an alternative activity. Surveys must be completed in order to receive compensation. You may also refuse to allow your child to participate by signing and returning this form.

If you have questions

The main researcher conducting this study is Janis Whitlock, a research scientist at Cornell University. Please ask any questions by contacting Janis Whitlock at jlw43@cornell.edu or at (607)254-2894. If you have any

questions or concerns regarding your child's rights as a subject in this study, you may contact the Institutional Review Board (IRB) for Human Participants at 607-255-6182 or access their website at <http://www.irb.cornell.edu>. You may also report your concerns or complaints anonymously through Ethicspoint online at www.hotline.cornell.edu or by calling toll free at 1-866-293-3077. Ethicspoint is an independent organization that serves as a liaison between the University and the person bringing the complaint so that anonymity can be ensured.

You can also call or text Amanda Purington at 607-216-8794 or email Sara Komoroske at sara.komoroske@ppcwny.org with any questions you have about this study or to opt out of the study.

Opting-Out

If you grant permission for your child to participate in this research study, you do not need to do anything more.

If you do **not** want your child to participate in this research study, please sign below and return this form to your child's afterschool/youth program. You can also call or text Amanda Purington at 607-216-8794 or email Sara Komoroske at sara.komoroske@ppcwny.org to opt out of the study.

The study will start on _____. If you do NOT want your child to participate, please sign and return this form before that date.

I have read the above information, and have received answers to any questions I asked. I do **NOT** give permission for my child to take part in the study.

Your Signature _____ Date _____

Your Name (printed) _____

This form will be kept by the researcher for five years beyond the end of the study.