

Adapted Activity 2 - Dear Little Brother

from The Boys Council Activity Guide

Living a Legacy

Session 9


FOUNDATION

We are all connected.

To All Our One Circle Facilitators

With these difficult times, One Circle Foundation wants to acknowledge you for the great work you continue to do with youth.

In an effort to make that a little easier for you, we are beginning to add Adapted Activities from our curricula in order for you to have the ability to hold Girls Circle and Boys Council sessions online with the youth in your programs. As you know, the creative and experiential activities presented in the Activity Guides require individuals to be in a live, in-person circle. We have begun adapting these activities so the youth can participate from the safety of their homes. These adaptations will be posted and made available to you on the One Circle Foundation website “Virtual Solutions” section, for your easy access..

Each adapted activity will note which Activity Guide they were adapted from as well as which session. We include here an outline of the six steps of the Girls Circle Model and the seven steps of The Council for Boys and Young Men Model for you to use as a guide.

PLEASE NOTE: These adaptations do NOT include the full session; only the **ACTIVITY** step is described; however, you will see in the adaptation that there is an overview of the topic and brief discussion to incorporate into your circles. The objectives of the activity align with the original intent of the session.

Girls Circle:

Opening Ritual
Theme Introduction
Check-In
Activity → ADAPTED
Sharing of Activity
Closing Ritual

The Council for Boys and Young Men:

Opening Ritual
Theme Introduction
Warm-Up
Check-in
Activity → ADAPTED
Reflection
Closing Ritual

We welcome your suggestions and feedback as well as learning of any adapted or original activities you are doing online with the youth you serve. In fact, we invite our community members to share these activities with one another in this forum as well.

We at One Circle Foundation are committed to supporting all of you as we find our new normal. Be safe and continue to reach out for support from One Circle Foundation.

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Topic: Leading the Way for Younger Boys

Group members reach out to a young man in their family or community through letter-writing. The letter allows the council member to put into words a message for the next generation. This should be written to someone they personally have a connection with.

Objectives:

- To help members understand their social and civic responsibility to each other, their community, and specifically to younger boys.
- To encourage and assist members to verbalize the importance and impact of their taking an active role in the mentoring and development of younger boys.
- To have participants look back at themselves and see the parallels between their lives and the lives of the boys they work with.

Key Learning Points:

- Many boys and young men feel like they have to walk alone. Many of the participants may have lived under this assumption throughout their lives.
- Many men do not feel a sense of connection or obligation to others due to the impact of their personal culture.
- Boys and young men need mentors.
- It is important for participants to connect with their “little brother” in order to be a really effective mentor.
- Mentors should also be role models.
- Participants may have powerful insight into the importance of or lack of mentors in their lives.

Procedure to Lead Activities:

Let the youth know before you start the activity they will need the Dear Little Brother Handout that was emailed. As an alternative you can share a copy of the Dear Little Brother Handout on the White Board.

“Dear Little Brother” Letter

Dear Little _____,

This letter is _____. I probably have never told how much I

_____. But, as your

_____, I want you to know that _____

_____. There are

some things that you should know about growing up as a male such as _____

_____ and _____.

You should also know that _____

_____.

My greatest hope for you is _____

_____.

Your _____

(name goes here) _____

PS. Always remember : _____

_____.

Prior to the session starting :

Create an order for your session by choosing a number for each member in your group (1-4 etc.). Then write their names next to their number to establish an order for taking turns speaking in the Council group..

Order for Speaking/Sharing

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Materials: **Dear Little Brother** Handout and a pen or pencil. Before beginning the instructions double check that each group member has the printout and a writing utensil before giving further instructions below.

1. Have members think about a young boy in their life. Explain to them that he could be a younger brother, son, nephew, cousin, or neighborhood young man. Give them several minutes if needed to think about it.
2. Instruct each member to fill out the letter giving deep thought to what they would like to say to their “Little” in their life.
3. Group members can write from their own perspective.
4. Once all of the letters are complete, invite each member of the group to share their letter or a section of it with the group. This should take about 5 minutes.

Remind the members to raise their hands in **chat** and you will call on them one at a time.

Reflection Questions:

- ❖ How did you decide about whom you would identify as “little brother” for this activity? *Give the members a few moments to respond.*
- ❖ What was it like for you to write this letter? *Give the members a few moments to respond.*
- ❖ Who has shared this kind of wisdom or insight with your “little brother” before and what was that like? *Give the members a few moments to respond.*
- ❖ What were you feeling as you were writing or sharing? *Give the members a few moments to respond.*

- ❖ What did you notice about the letters written by others in the group? *Give the members a few moments to respond.*

Explore Meanings:

- ❖ Why do younger boys look up to older boys? *Give the members a few moments to respond.*
- ❖ Why is it important for boys and young men to have mentors or role models? *Give the members a few moments to respond.*
- ❖ How does it make you feel to know that you are having an impact on someone younger? *Give the members a few moments to respond.*
- ❖ How are you more conscious of your own behavior, attitude and actions knowing that your “little brother” is looking up to you? *Give the members a few moments to respond.*
- ❖ Talk about a time when someone wrote a letter like this to you or told you these kinds of things and what it meant to you? *Give the members a few moments to respond.*

Transfer to Life:

- ❖ In what ways does sharing our wisdom through letters like this shape the little brothers within our lives? *Give the members a few moments to respond.*
- ❖ Who plans to share this letter with your “little brother” and why or why not?

Summarize:

Summarize key points that members of the Council have shared, use affirmations and reflective statements, and make remarks to connect them to one another through this shared experience. Reflect what THEY said and affirm.

Application Question:

Use your established speaking order to hear from each member of the Council. Ask:

After having experienced and shared this letter writing, what is one thing you will do over the next month as a result of this activity?