

# FLVS Full Time Community Service Manual

## FLVS Full Time Community Service Requirements for Florida Bright Futures Scholarships

To be eligible to receive one of the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Awards, you must complete a program of community service. Community service is defined as identifying a social issue in the community (i.e. poverty, abuse, elderly citizen rights, etc.) and requires that you take action concerning that issue faced by society. Community service hours meet the requirement for the Florida Academic Scholars, Florida Medallion Scholars, or Gold Seal Vocational Scholarships.

You must identify a social or civic issue or a professional area that interests you, develop a plan for your personal involvement in addressing the issue or learning about the area, and, through papers or other presentations, evaluate and reflect upon your experience. Except for credit earned through service-learning courses adopted pursuant to s. 1003.497, you may not receive remuneration or academic credit for the community service work performed. Such work may include, but is not limited to, a business or governmental internship, work for a nonprofit community service organization, or activities on behalf of a candidate for public office. The hours of community service must be documented in writing, and the document must be signed by you, your parent or guardian, and a representative of the organization for which you performed the community service work.

Unlike community service, volunteer service may not be used for Bright Futures Scholarships. Only community service hours, as defined above, meet the requirement. Volunteer service is defined as assisting where help is needed, but it does not necessarily address a social issue. Although volunteer service hours are not recorded on your transcript, you can keep a log of these activities for use when applying for college, jobs, awards, and scholarships.

### For the service to qualify for the Bright Futures Scholarship you must:

**1. Be a high school student enrolled in grades 9-12**

- *Note: Rising freshmen may not apply to start community service hours until enrolled and their 9th grade school year has begun.*

**2. Complete a minimum number of community service hours, including:**

- Florida Academic Scholarship – 100 hours
- Florida Medallion Scholarship – 75 hours
- Gold Seal Vocational – 30 hours

**3. Identify a social problem(s) of interest, develop a plan of personal involvement in addressing the problem, and evaluate and reflect on the experience.**

- Community service work should address a social problem with preference to benefiting the State of Florida and/or your county.
- The service may be performed at more than one agency and address more than one social problem; however, each agency must be approved by your school counselor prior to the beginning of the experience.

**4. Get your school counselor to approve the plan prior to the beginning of the experience.**

- You may not begin community service work until your project ideas have been submitted and approved by your school counselor and all paperwork has been signed and dated by the appropriate people. Any volunteer work done before this happens will under no circumstances count toward the Florida Bright Futures community service hours. Please contact your school counselor with questions.
- *Note: You may apply previously earned volunteer hours recorded on your official transcript to cumulative hours toward Bright Futures.*

**5. Complete all community service hours prior to your graduation date.**

- Once a student is an active ninth grader and a project has the written approval of his or her school counselor, there is no time limit for completing hours other than the hours must be completed prior to graduation.

**6. Be aware of what hours cannot be counted, including:**

- a. Hours logged prior to your school counselor's approval and signature
- b. Court mandated community service
- c. An activity for which a student benefited financially or materially for the community service work
- d. All forms of duty within the family. The student's family to include: parents (including step), siblings (including step), any of their grandchildren (including step), and any of their spouses
- e. Religious devotion or any activity which can be interpreted primarily as proselytizing
- f. An activity where there is no leader or responsible adult on site to evaluate and confirm student performance



## Suggested Community Service Projects

A partial list of possible community service experiences is provided below. This list should not be considered all-inclusive, as there are many more ideas for service. *Note: No service project location is pre-approved; all projects must be approved by your school counselor prior to the start of the activity.*

### **Abuse Issues:**

- Abuse Shelters

### **Animal Rights and Environmental Issues:**

- City & County Park Services
- Humane Society
- SPCA
- Wildlife Rehabilitation Centers

### **Diversity Issues:**

- Holocaust Museum

### **Elderly Citizen Issues:**

- Assisted Living Facilities
- Better Business Bureau Florida Elder Care
- Grand Kids
- Nursing Homes
- Project Pups-Pets to Nursing Homes

### **Health Issues:**

- Alzheimer's Issues
- American Cancer Society
- American Heart Association
- American Red Cross
- Circle of Hope Volunteer Program
- Florida Covering Kids and Families
- Free Health Clinics
- Hospice
- Hospitals
- National Alliance on Mental Illness
- Rehabilitation Centers
- Therapeutic Clowning
- United Cerebral Palsy

### **Legal Issues:**

- Better Business Bureau
- Teen Court Arbitration
- Voter registration

### **Life Issues:**

- Anti-Smoking Campaigns
- Illiteracy
- Junior Achievement
- MCTFT–Multi-County Drug Task Force
- Pregnancy Crisis Center
- Straight Alliance–Sexuality issues
- TAPP–Alcohol Abuse
- Teen Suicide 211
- Underage Drinking

### **Mentally/Physically Challenged Individuals**

#### **Issues:**

- Best Buddies
- Canine Companions for Independence
- Horses for Handicapped
- Lighthouse for the Blind
- PAWS with a Cause
- Special Olympics
- YMCA

#### **Mentoring Students:**

- Big Brother/Big Sister
- Boys Club/Girls Club
- Gulf Coast Autism Association
- Peer Connectors
- Peer to Peer
- Public Schools (Must be trained by Department of Strategic Partnerships)
- Ronald McDonald House

#### **Need-Based/Poverty Issues:**

- American Second Harvest of Tampa Bay
- Clothes To Kids
- Habitat for Humanity
- Holiday Toy Drives
- Homeless Emergency Project, Inc.
- Meals on Wheels
- Salvation Army
- Soup Kitchens
- Toys for Tots
- United Way

### **Other:**

- Volunteermatch.org

### **Tutoring – ESOL:**

- Adult literacy
- Children of the World–Pre-School
- Libraries

### **Tutoring – At Risk of Failing Students:**

- Big Brother/Big Sister
- Boys/Girls Clubs 547-KIDS
- Bridging the Achievement Gap
- Early Head Start
- Hospitals
- Libraries
- Public Schools–Academic Classes
- R-Club
- Recreation Centers
- Ronald McDonald House
- YMCA



## Instructions

The following steps are the process for documenting the community service experience. For specific requirements concerning grade point average, courses needed, and minimum SAT or ACT scores, please see the [Florida Bright Futures Brochure](#) or contact your FLVS Full Time counselor.

1. **Meet with your school counselor to review policies and procedures.**
2. **Contact the community agency for an interview to discuss the social issue and a plan of action to address the social issue.**
3. **Complete form #1 ([Student Community Service Program Application](#)) after developing a detailed identification of the social problem and plan of action.**
4. **Submit Student Community Service Program Application to your school counselor for approval.**
5. **Log community service hours on form #2 ([Student Service Log](#)). The agency contact person must sign this documentation.**
6. **The completed forms shall be placed in the student's official cumulative file.**

*Please note: All community service hours and paperwork must be completed, signed, and submitted to the school prior to graduation.*