



FLVS Full Time High School

Community Service Handbook

What is Community Service as it applies to the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship?

Community Service is defined as identifying a social issue in the community. This requires students to look beyond themselves and reach out to an issue faced by our society (e.g. poverty, abuse, elderly citizen rights). These hours will meet the requirement for the Florida Academic Scholars, Florida Medallion Scholars or Gold Seal Vocational scholarships. The completed hours will be recorded on the transcript of the student.

Volunteer Service is defined as helping others when or where it is needed, but does not necessarily address a social issue. Although these hours will not be recorded on the high school transcript, students are encouraged to keep a log of the activities for documentation on college, job, and scholarship applications (other than Bright Futures).

To be eligible to receive one of the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship awards, all students must complete a program of community service work that includes a minimum number of hours: Florida Academic Scholarship – 100 hours

Florida Medallion Scholarship – 75 hours

Gold Seal Vocational Scholarship – 30 hours

What counts, what doesn't?

All organizations where community service hours are completed must be non-profit. Your community service hours must address one or more of the following social concerns and be part of a non-profit organization.

Social Issue	Description	Examples
Service to Youth	Provide leadership, guidance, and activities for the youth in your community.	Collect toys for holidays, volunteer at hospitals.



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Quality of Life	Work towards improving the standard of living for the residents of your community.	Food collection drives, Humane Society dog wash, animal food collection.
Service to Senior Citizens	Provide opportunities for senior citizens to enhance independent living or assist with promoting a quality life.	Assist with reading and writing letters, provide entertainment like BINGO games, food collection, grocery shopping.
Health and/or Safety	Volunteer services to promote the health, welfare and safety of the residents of your community.	Relay for Life, March of Dimes, and disaster relief.
Developmentally Disabled and/or Physically Disabled	Volunteer your services in an effort to improve and enrich the lives of the mentally and physically disabled.	Special Olympics, assist in group homes, collect toys, art supplies.
Environmental and/or Historical Preservation	Volunteer your services to promote and encourage the preservation of the environment and/or the protection of historical sites.	Community beautification projects, beach clean-up, museums, historical research.
Arts and/or Culture	Volunteer your services to encourage the growth of the arts in your community.	Help with gallery exhibitions, auctions, creative art camp, usher at fundraising performances.



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Community service projects will not be accepted if they were completed:

- Prior to the summer before entering Grade 9 (Service hours may begin after the last day of 8th grade has commenced)
- As part of a court mandated community service
- An activity for which a student benefited financially or materially for the volunteer service worked
- Family related activities or service to family members (ex: babysitting, completing assigned chores, etc.)
- Service for the sole benefit of a religious house of worship and/or its congregation. Please note that activities sponsored by these organizations that benefit the community (ex: mission trips or community cleanup events) are acceptable for Bright Futures.
- Donations, such as Locks of Love or giving blood
- Service work that earns the student academic credit (except for credit earned through an approved service-learning course)
- Activities, events, or organizations that require fees to be paid to participate
- An activity where there is no responsible adult or supervisor on site to evaluate and confirm student performance. Please note that parents/guardians cannot sign off on community service hours.

Other activities that may qualify as volunteering but not as community service for the purpose of the Bright Futures Scholarship include but are not limited to the following:

- Washing your elderly neighbor's car or mowing his lawn
 - School or club group car washes and fundraisers
 - Babysitting for your neighbor
 - Some common activities which do not count include: babysitting, clerical work for religious, political, or profit making organizations.
 - Working in your parent's store or business
 - Helping your pastor at your church with personal errands
 - Church activities that benefit only the members of the church such as acolyte, altar server, lay reader, Vacation Bible School, working in a church nursery, or church choir
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Completing and Documenting Community Service Hours

Please follow the steps outlined below:

1. Identify a social problem (see list above)
2. Develop a plan of action. This is for you and not to be submitted.
3. Complete the Full Time High School Community Service Pledge (download below)
4. Submit the service proposal to your school counselor BEFORE any hours are completed. If you choose from the approved list ([click here](#)) you may skip this step. If you are in question of if your hours will be approved or not please submit.
5. Complete the service and document your hours using the log (download below). Be sure to collect any and all necessary documentation and signatures from the organization where the hours take place. Please note that you will need to complete 1 form per organization you provide service to.
6. Complete the student reflection.
7. Submit all forms to your school counselor

Forms and Documentation

Please download, complete and submit the following forms to properly document community service hours. Click on the links below

- [Community service pledge](#)
- [Community service log and reflection](#)

For questions and support please contact your school counselor. Additional resources can be located on the counselor homepage by clicking [here](#).