

Florida Bright Futures Community Service Information

Community Service Requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarships

Volunteer Service is defined as assisting where needed and does not necessarily address a social issue. Although these hours are not recorded on the transcript, students can keep a log of these activities for use when applying for college, job applications, awards and scholarships other than the Bright Futures.

Community Service is defined as identifying and helping with a social issue in the community. This requires students to look beyond themselves and reach out to an issue faced by our society (i.e. 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 student's transcript.

To be eligible to receive one of the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Awards a student must complete a program of community service work that includes a "minimum" of hours.

Florida Academic Scholarship-100 hours

Florida Medallion Scholarship-75 hours

Gold Seal Vocational-30 hours

The student will identify a social problem or problems that interests him/her, develop a plan of personal involvement in addressing the problem and evaluate and reflect upon the experience.

The service may be performed at more than one agency and address more than one social problem, however, each activity must be approved by the student's school counselor prior to the beginning of the experience.

The student must be a high school student enrolled in grades 9-12 (summer before 9th grade is acceptable).

For specific requirements concerning grade point average, courses needed and minimum SAT or ACT scores, please see <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/SAPHome/SAPHome?url=home>

Process for Bright Futures Community Service

1. Complete the Proposal Form. Once the Service Proposal Form has been printed and completed, students must meet with their school counselor before/after school for verification and counselor signature. Once a counselor has signed the form, the student will hang on to this form until the completion of the community service activity.
2. Complete the Evaluation Form. When the community service project has been completed, students will turn in **both the signed Proposal Form and completed Log and Evaluation form** to their counselor.

Summer Hours: Any community service hours NOT approved by May 20th, will not be reviewed until the beginning of the following school year. This means that students may complete the Proposal Form, the activity and the Service Log and Evaluation Form, but it is not guaranteed that the activity will be accepted. This will be reviewed at the beginning of the next school year.

Special Notes: a) Service hours need to be turned in on a quarterly basis. Any service hours that are outstanding for more than one year will not be accepted. b) Senior Deadline for turning in service hours is the first day of May. Community service hours turned in after May 1, will not be accepted. c) Service hours through MHS clubs/activities will be handled through the club/activity sponsor. Students should verify with their sponsors that hours are being submitted quarterly.

*What may count:	
Service for non-profit agencies Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red Cross • Salvation Army • Meal-on-Wheels • Shelters 	Service work with churches Examples <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission trips • VBS (logistics, not teaching) • Nursery • Church sponsored projects that directly address a community need or social issue
Nursing homes/hospitals	High school service club projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization of events that directly address a community need or social issue
Animal shelters	Libraries
A business or governmental internship	activities on behalf of a candidate for public office
Participation in events that benefit members of the community	Volunteer service for charitable fundraising events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Race for the Cures • Relay for Life

*What will not count:	
Court ordered community service	Donations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canned foods • Locks of Love • Blood donations
Work that is compensated either financially or with some other material gain, including grades	Activities for the sole benefit of a religious house of worship and or it's congregation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praise team • Religious teaching • Community outreach
Family related activities or service to family members (parents, grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and spouses, included step relations)	Extra-curricular activity (school related and non-school related) requirements; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings • Practices • Performances/games • Community theater rehearsals/performances • recitals
Fostering animals in the home	Attendance at self-improvement workshops, training, conferences, competitions or travel
Babysitting	Job shadowing

*This is not an all-inclusive list. Check with the Volunteer Service Coordinator at your school if you are unsure.