

## Hernando County School Board

### Student Community Service Information Sheet

**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 today. These hours will meet the requirement for Bright Futures Scholarship. Hours must be completed at a 501-C-3 location, excluding hospitals and nursing homes. 1009.536

**Volunteer Service** is defined as assisting where needed and does not 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 other scholarships other than the Bright Futures. Volunteer Service hours do not count for Bright Futures.

#### QUICK FACTS

**FACT 1:** Community service is not required to graduate.

**FACT 2:** Community Service is required for the Bright Futures Scholarships. The Academic Scholarship requires 100 community service hours, the Medallion scholarship requires 75 and the Gold Seal Vocational requires 30 community service hours.

**FACT 3:** Community Service and Volunteer Service are not the same as defined above.

**FACT 4:** Students must be prepared to state the social problem and evaluate and reflect on his or her experience.

**FACT 5:** The service may be performed at more than one agency and address more than one social issue, however, each agency should be approved by designated guidance counselor prior to beginning the service.

#### STEPS TO COMPLETE COMMUNITY SERVICE

**STEP 1:** Review the Community Service Information Sheet and see your counselor with any questions.

**STEP 2:** Contact the agency and set up an interview to discuss the social issue and develop a plan of action to address it.

**STEP 3:** Complete the Community Service Project Proposal form

**STEP 4:** Submit the Community Service Project Proposal form to your guidance counselor for approval. **Do not start your hours until the Community Service Project Proposal is signed and approved by your counselor.**

**STEP 5:** Keep a detailed log of your activities on the Community Service Hours Performed Log

**STEP 6:** Summarize, evaluate, and reflect upon the community service work experience using the Student Community Service Project Evaluation/ Reflection Form

**STEP 7:** The completed papers shall be turned into your designated guidance counselor and filed in the student's cumulative file for reference in the case of a compliance audit.

#### WHAT HOURS CANNOT BE COUNTED?

- Court Mandated Hours and Hours required as a result of school disciplinary action
- An activity that benefits the student financially or materially
- All forms of duty within the immediate and extended family including "step" family members
- An activity where there is no leader or responsible adult on site to evaluate and confirm student performance.
- Donations like giving blood or Locks of Love
- Participation in Varsity or Junior Varsity Athletics and regularly scheduled band and chorus performances does not constitute volunteer service under this program.
- Service work that the student earns academic credit (except through approved community service-learning courses).
- Religious devotion or any activity that can be interpreted as proselytizing.
- **Common activities, which do not count, include:** acolyte, altar server, lay reader, vacation Bible School, babysitting, working in church nursery, church choir and clerical work for religious, political, or profit making organizations.
- Clerical work at any location does not count

#### ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

- Participation in performances and festivals counts if it is voluntary, not required for a grade in a class, and it is a fundraising event for a charity/ non-profit organization or if it is for the encouragement of the growth of the arts in the community.
- Band performances in community parades such as 4th of July, Veterans Day, Martin Luther King Day, will count; homecoming parades etc. do not count.
- Fundraising for non-profit organizations or charities will count, fundraising for school clubs will not.
- Attending school club meetings does not count in itself count.



<i>For office use only</i>	
Hours received _____	Date _____
Hours entered by _____	
Total hours earned to date _____	

## Bright Futures Community Service Proposal

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student # \_\_\_\_\_ High School \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Year \_\_\_\_\_

Organization(s) where the hours will be performed: (describe activity)	Answer yes (Y) or no (N) to all of the following questions in the spaces provided:	Y/N
_____	Is the activity family related?	
_____	Will you be compensated either financially or with some other material benefit?	
_____	Is the activity court mandated community service?	
<b>What social issue(s) will your activity address? (circle all that apply):</b> Abuse                      Health Animals                    Homelessness Education                  Hunger Elderly                        Poverty Environment                Other:	Is the service for the sole benefit of a religious house of worship and/or its congregation?	
	Will you be fostering animals?	
	Is the activity required for one of your classes?	
	Are you donating an item like blood, hair, or canned food?	
	Will the hours be submitted after your graduation?	
	Will the hours be performed overnight at a camp or event?	
	Will a leader or responsible adult (not parent/guardian) with the <u>organization</u> be on site to evaluate and confirm student performance?	

### *Keep copies for your records of all documentation.*

I understand that this proposal to participate in community service is entirely voluntary on my part and that the completion of documented community service related to this proposal can be used to satisfy the community service requirement of the Florida Academic Scholarship, Florida Medallion Scholarship, Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award and Gold Seal CAPE Scholars. Selection of the organization, services performed, and documentation are the responsibility of the student. Signature of the Community Service Contact indicates that the student has presented an appropriate social issue for meeting the community service requirement of the Bright Futures Scholarship Program. **All community service hour documentation MUST be submitted by the school's graduation date. Any community service hours submitted after the graduation date even if earned prior to graduation will not be accepted. No Exceptions.**

\*A parent/guardian cannot represent as a service agency

_____ Student Signature	_____ Date
_____ Guidance Counselor Signature	_____ Date

<i>For office use only</i>	
Hours received .....	Date .....
Hours entered by .....	
Total hours earned to date .....	

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student# \_\_\_\_\_ High School \_\_\_\_\_

*The student must submit a proposal to the Community Service Contact at the school site before beginning any project.*  
 It is the responsibility of the student to keep the actual record of the hours of service performed.

Total Hours \_\_\_\_\_

All community service hour documentation MUST be submitted by the school's graduation date. Any community service hours submitted after the graduation date even if earned prior to graduation will not be accepted. No exceptions.

Date	Start/End Time of Activity	Hours Logged	Community Service Location	Service Agency Phone #	*Signature of Service Agency Contact
					Print
					Sign
					Print
					Sign
					Print
					Sign
					Print
					Sign
					Print
					Sign
					Print
					Sign
					Print
					Sign

\*A parent/guardian cannot represent as a service agency

**I agree that I have performed the above hours.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Guidance Counselor Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

**Hernando County School Board**  
**Student Community Service Project Evaluation/Reflection Form**

A legible, thoughtful and meaningful response is required or this will be returned to you to be rewritten.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**How will this service experience affect your future decisions/plans?**

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**Through this experience, what have you learned about yourself?**

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**Describe how you think your experience made a positive impact on your community.**

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**Do you plan to continue service to your community? Why/Why not?**

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By signing below, I understand that this is not the application for Bright Futures scholarships, I must complete the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) during my last year of high school. I also understand that community service is only one of the requirements for a Bright Futures Scholarship, I will view my evaluation/eligibility online at [https://www.floridashines.org/CCRE/hs\\_accessbf.jsp](https://www.floridashines.org/CCRE/hs_accessbf.jsp)

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

A copy of this form must be placed in the student's cumulative folder.