



## ***School Community Service Plan***

### PLEASE NOTE:

- The community service project must be pre-approved by your counselor **before** you begin your hours, and it **must address a social problem or concern**.
- Community service projects will **not accepted** if they were completed:
  - For a family member
  - Prior to the summer before entering Grade 9
- Please follow these guidelines to earn credit for your hours.

### **Guidelines for students:**

1. Obtain the required forms from the school website or your guidance counselor
2. Develop a written community service plan **which addresses a social problem or concern**.
3. Submit the plan to your counselor for approval **before** you begin your community service.
4. All community service will begin the summer prior to entering high school.
5. Submit community service documentation to your counselor upon completion of the approved activity.

### **Hours required for Bright Futures Eligibility:**

Florida Academic Scholars: 100 Hours

Florida Medallion Scholars: 75 Hours

Florida Gold Seal Vocational: 30 Hour

### **Suggested Categories for Service: All organizations 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.

- **SERVICE TO YOUTH:** Provide leadership, guidance, and activities for the youth in your community. Ex: collect toys for holidays, volunteer at hospitals.
- **QUALITY OF LIFE:** Work towards improving the standard of living for the residents of your community. Ex: 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. Ex: assist with reading and writing letters, provide entertainment like BINGO games, food collection, grocery shopping.
- **HEALTH/SAFETY:** Volunteer services to promote the health, welfare and safety of the residents of your community. Ex: 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. Ex: Special Olympics, assist in group homes, collect toys, art supplies.
- **ENVIRONMENT/HISTORICAL PRESERVATION:** Volunteer your services to promote and encourage the preservation of the environment and/or the protection of historical sites. Ex: community beautification projects, beach clean-up, museums, historical research.
- **ARTS/CULTURE:** Volunteer your services to encourage the growth of the arts in your community. Ex: help with gallery exhibitions, auctions, creative art camp, usher at fundraising performances.

#### **SAMPLE ESSAY:**

By volunteering at the Relay for Life, I am helping to promote the health, welfare and safety of the residents in my community. The American Cancer Society has projected that 1,638,910 Americans will be diagnosed with some form of cancer this year alone. In helping to raise funds for the American Cancer Society, we are helping to work towards finding a cure or at least treatments for people fighting this devastating disease.

At Relay for life, the activities I am participating in help raise money for cancer research. They also help recognize and give support to survivors of cancer and people currently in treatment. We also remember those we have lost to this disease. My specific duties included: setting up concession stands, putting up and decorating luminaries, working with young children in activities during throughout the day.

My volunteer activities made me more aware of what people go through when they have cancer, and gave me a better appreciation of my own good health. It is very satisfying to know that I have been a part of something that will help so many people.

Student Signature:

Date:

# ***Community Service Project Requirements for 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 (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 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 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 – 30 hours

Please meet with your counselor **BEFORE** you begin a project to be sure it meets the community service criteria.

**Bright Futures website:**

**<http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/>**

## SOME SUGGESTED COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS:

- A Gift for Teaching
- American Cancer Society/Relay for Life
- American Red Cross
- Assisted Living Facilities
- Best Buddies
- BETA
- Boys Club/Girls Club
- Clean Up the World
- ESPNwos.disney.go.com/about/volunteer
- Soup Kitchens
- Second Harvest Food Bank
- Habitat for Humanity (check with your counselor **FIRST** for approval)
- Handsonorlando.com
- Hospice
- Horses for the Handicapped
- Hospitals
- Humane Society
- Love Letters Care
- Orlando Science Center
- Ronald McDonald house
- Russell Home
- Salvation Army

## EXAMPLES OF COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- Campus clean ups, lakes and waterways clean ups: [www.cleanuporlando.com](http://www.cleanuporlando.com)
- Plan meetings and activities for *Relay for Life*: [www.relayforlife.org](http://www.relayforlife.org)
- Become an ADDitions volunteer at school fairs and other OCPS functions: [www.ocps.net/es/cr/resources/Pages/VolunteerOnlineApplication.aspx](http://www.ocps.net/es/cr/resources/Pages/VolunteerOnlineApplication.aspx)
- Become a *Give Kids the World* volunteer : [www.gktw.org/volunteer](http://www.gktw.org/volunteer)
- Disney Sports complex benefiting non-profit organizations: [www.espnwos.disney.go.com/events/.../volunteer-sports-enthusiast-program](http://www.espnwos.disney.go.com/events/.../volunteer-sports-enthusiast-program)
- Help clean animal cages, walk dogs, feed animals at the Orlando Humane Society: [www.ohs-sPCA.org](http://www.ohs-sPCA.org)
- Helping senior citizens write letters at a local assisted living facility: [www.seniorsfirstinc.org](http://www.seniorsfirstinc.org)

## EXAMPLES OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

(DO NOT count as community service)

- Washing your elderly neighbor's car or mowing his lawn
- School or club group car washes and fund raisers
- Babysitting for your neighbor
- 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