

# Community Service Guidelines

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**What is Community Service?** An altruistic, uncompensated effort that benefits the community and/or special populations.

Community Service, in order to be considered for hours towards Bright Futures, must follow the FL Law:

*To access an award through the Bright Futures Program, a student must complete a program of community service work, as approved by the school, which will require the student to **identify a social problem** that interests him or her, develop a plan for his or her **personal involvement in addressing the problem**, and through papers or other presentations, **evaluate and reflect upon his or her experience**. (Florida Statute 1009.534)*

**What is Volunteer Service?** Unpaid activity that does not address a social issue or serve the community. These hours will not be recorded on the transcript and will not count toward Bright Futures eligibility. Students may keep a log of volunteer activities to report when applying for college, job applications, awards, and scholarships **other** than Bright Futures.

\*Culinary and Child Development volunteer service hours will be tracked separately.

Community Service though uncompensated, is **NOT** simply volunteer service. Community Service hours, once approved, will be documented on a student transcript for FL Bright Futures eligibility. Community Service needs to answer the following questions:

- **How have you served your community?**
- **What social issue has your service addressed?**
- **What have you learned from your service?**
- **How have you grown as a result of your service?**

**How do I ensure my community service hours will be accepted?**

- Students may begin to earn hours beginning the summer after 8<sup>th</sup> grade (must be officially promoted)
- Hours **MUST** be documented and submitted to include ALL of the following information: adult supervisor's signature, dates of service, total hours, reflection of service. Forms are on the LOLHS website and paper copies are located in guidance.
- Agency letterhead may be substituted for our community service form provided that all required information is included.
- Hours must be performed during **non-school** hours.
- It is recommended that students keep a copy of all documentation submitted.

**Community Service Ideas:** The preservation of the environment and/or the protection of historical sites; The promotion of the health, welfare and safety of the community; The improvement of the standard of living for residents of our community; The encouragement of the growth of the arts in our community; The improvement and enrichment of the lives of the mentally and/or physically disabled of our community; The promotion of a quality life for the senior citizens of our community; The provision of leadership, guidance, and activities for the youth of our community; Identify a social problem not covered by one of the previous listed areas.; Students may provide community service for/with religious organizations as long as it can answer the guiding questions identified above. (See 4<sup>th</sup> bullet)

**Hours NOT acceptable for Community Service include:**

- Family related activities or service to/for family members, included extended family, step-family, etc.
- Hours that are compensated either financially or with some other material benefit (including grades).
- Court mandated community service.
- Service for the sole benefit of a religious house of worship and/or its congregation. Activities sponsored by these organizations that benefit the community are accepted such as mission trips, community cleanup events, vacation Bible School, etc.
- Co-curricular activities that are course requirements.
- Activity where there is no leader or responsible adult on site to confirm student performance.
- Donations (ex. blood, Locks of Love, clothing donations).
- Hours submitted after graduation or performed during the school day.

**Not sure if your plan or hours qualify? See Mrs. Colon in the CRC, room 300, BEFORE you begin.**