

**Community Service** is when a student identifies a social issue in the community, then develops a personal plan to reach out to the issue such as poverty, abuse, children, elderly, education, etc. The student then evaluates and reflects upon the experience.

**Volunteer Service** is assisting where needed, but does not necessarily address a social issue.

### Getting Started

Students may begin earning hours towards high school recognition after completion of middle school.

Community Service Coordinators at each high school coordinate the application process and approve the hours and locations where students may serve.

Complete the appropriate paperwork (Student Application, Parent Approval Form, and the Agency Application) and return to the Community Service Coordinator for approval. All students are strongly advised to get approval *before* beginning any community service project.

The school's Community Service Coordinator will verify and approve the service hours. The school's principal has the authority to dismiss a student from the Community Service Program.



### **Important Reminders!**

\*Community service hours must be submitted for posting prior to the student's graduation date. Regardless of when the hours were actually earned, no hours can be submitted after the student's graduation date.

\*Documentation must be specific. Be sure to include: Date that the activity was performed, the name/site of the Agency, the times and hours worked, and an Agency Supervisor's signature for every time a service is provided.

\*For the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, the student **MUST** complete a Community Service Plan Form that describes the social problem being served, the plan for personal involvement, and a final evaluation of the service experience.

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# Community Service Program

## For High School Students



### **Polk County Public Schools**

1915 S. Floral Avenue

Bartow, FL 33830

**Our Mission:**

To provide a high quality  
education for all students.

## Benefits

Character Development  
Graduation Honors Distinction  
Scholarships  
Resume Builder  
Elective Credit  
Exposure to Diversity



## Annual Awards

*(additional hours awarded each year)*

**Certificate:** 0–49 hours of service earned

**Certificate with Embossed Seal:** 50+ hours

## Graduation Distinction Awards

*(Total hours accumulated during grades 9–12.)*

**Silver Cord:** 250+ hours

**Exceeding Expectations Medallion:** 1000+ hours



## **Florida Bright Futures Scholarship**

Florida Academic Scholar-	100 hours
Florida Medallion Scholar-	75 hours
Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholar-	30 hours

## **High School Credit Program**

High school students may receive ½ credit (for each 75 hours served) in a Voluntary Public Service elective course (#05003700) or in a Voluntary School/Community Service course (#21043300). This must be pre-arranged and scheduled through the school counselor.

*For both the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program and High School Credit Program, the student MUST complete a **Community Service Plan Form** that describes the social problem being served, the plan for personal involvement, and a final evaluation of the service experience.*



## Approved Hours

- Non-profit Agencies
- Public Schools
- Chamber of Commerce
- Nursing homes and Hospitals
- Non-profit clinics
- Libraries
- Animal Shelters
- Sunshine Foundation Dream Village
- Service work with churches and for profit organizations that directly address social problems



## Not Approved Hours

- Service performed for pay
- Job shadowing
- Completed during regular school hours, athletic practice times, or club meeting times
- Saturday School, Detention/Work Detail
- Court Ordered
- Hours signed off by family members
- Hours through church directly related to worship or evangelism
- Babysitting
- Services related to armed services recruitment requirements