

Community Service Hours

Community service hours are NOT required for graduation.

Community service hours **are required** for all Bright Futures Scholarship Awards:

Florida Academic Scholars (100 hrs)
Florida Medallion Scholars (75 hrs), and
Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (30 hrs)

Please note that many other scholarship organizations consider community service when selecting award recipients. Students may begin logging hours the summer before their freshman year.

Below are some examples and some non-examples of eligible community service:

Community Service	NOT Community Service
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Service to a government agency▪ Service to a not – for – profit local, national or international organization▪ Service to a school or school organization – in which a grade is not awarded▪ Service to a religious organization▪ Participation in not – for – profit Fine Arts performances or exhibitions▪ VPS hours provided a grade is not awarded▪ Non – paid internships at a not – for – profit organization with prior school official approval▪ Career Academy non-paid internships	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Self-reported or parent reported hours will not be recognized▪ Family related activities▪ Hours in which students are compensated either monetarily or materially▪ School related activities that have required attendance and/or are a part of the course requirement to earn credit▪ Attendance at meetings which are required as part of membership in a club or organization▪ Activities that cannot be documented on business letterhead▪ Volunteer services for a for-profit business▪ Fostering animals does not count for Bright Futures hours

How to submit Community Service Hours

1. The hours must be documented in writing on the letterhead of the non-profit organization.
2. Three signatures are required: the student, the student's parent or guardian, and the representative of the organization.
3. Letters must be turned in to Mrs. Richards in the main Guidance office.
4. It is recommended that students keep a copy of community service letters for their records.

Need ideas for how to earn Community Service Hours?

Here are some ideas to help you find organizations for volunteer opportunities.

St Johns County Volunteers	http://stjohnsvolunteers.org/volunteers/student-volunteers/	Search for volunteer opportunities throughout St. Johns County
Volunteer Match	https://www.volunteermatch.org/	Search for volunteer opportunities throughout North FL
St. Augustine Humane Society	http://www.staughumane.org/getinvolved/volunteer.html	Volunteers should be dependable, flexible, and hardworking.
Habitat for Humanity	https://habitatstjohns.org/volunteer/	Volunteers help by constructing homes, helping with events, or working at the office.
Goodwill	http://goodwilljax.org/volunteer-work	Volunteers may assist in any store locations (excluding Pound Stores & donation centers).
Episcopal Children's Service	https://www.ecs4kids.org/about/volunteer/	Volunteers work with children between the ages of 2 and 5 years old.
Mayo Clinic	https://www.mayoclinic.org/about-mayo-clinic/volunteers/florida/becoming-volunteer	Summer program for teens from age 15 through the time you graduate from high school.
UF Health	https://ufhealth.org/volunteer	Offers ages 14-17 who have completed the 9th grade, an opportunity to volunteer in a variety of areas throughout the hospital.
Betty Griffin Center	http://bettygriffincenter.org/volunteer-career-opportunities/	Volunteer at either of the two thrift shops.
YMCA – KidZone	http://firstcoastymca.org/give/volunteer/	Volunteers, 16 and older, to help in YMCA KidZone.
Homeless Coalition of St Johns County	http://homelesscoalitionstjohns.com/become-a-volunteer/	Volunteers needed: Literacy and Children's Reading Tutors, Painters, Office Help, Fund Raiser, Gardeners
St Augustine Wild Reserve	http://www.staugustinewildreserve.org/Volunteer.htm	Volunteers participate in many activities including cage cleaning and maintenance. Volunteers must be over the age of 18, or be accompanied by a parent when they volunteer.
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