

## ***Bright Futures Scholarship Volunteer Service Work Information Sheet***

Per the state of Florida, eligibility for a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship award requires that students meet grade point average minimums, take certain courses and meet testing requirements. For specific requirements concerning grade point average, courses needed and minimum SAT or ACT scores, please see the [Florida Bright Futures Website](#) and/or contact your high school counselor.

Scholarship eligibility also requires that students complete volunteer work service as approved by the local school district for Florida Bright Futures Program. Students must be a high school student, enrolled in grades 9 – 12. **(NOTE: Summer before 9<sup>th</sup> grade is acceptable once the student has been promoted to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and IF the Volunteer Service Work Plan has been approved.)**

The volunteer service work hours for the Bright Futures Scholarships are as follows:

- Florida Academic Scholarship – 100 hours of volunteer service work
- Florida Medallion Scholarship – 75 hours of volunteer service work
- Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholarship – 30 hours of volunteer service work
- Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholarship – 30 hours of volunteer service work

Amendments to Florida Statute 1009.531 regarding the Bright Futures Volunteer Service Work Hours will be in effect starting July 1, 2016. From the statute:

“The student must complete a program of volunteer service work, as approved by the district school board, the administrators of a nonpublic school, or the Department of Education for home education program students, which must include a minimum of 100 hours of service work for high school students for the Florida Academic Scholarship, 75 hours for the Florida Medallion Scholarship or 30 hours for the Florida Gold Seal or the Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholarships. The student, must identify a social or civic issue or a professional area problem that interests him or her, develop a plan for his or her personal involvement in addressing the issue or learning about the area, and, through papers or other presentations, evaluate and reflect upon his or her experience. Except for credit earned through service-learning courses adopted pursuant to s. 1003.497, the student may not receive remuneration or academic credit for the volunteer service work performed. Such work may include, but is not limited to, a business or governmental internship, work for a nonprofit community service organization, or activities on behalf of a candidate for public office. The hours of volunteer service must be documented in writing, and the document must be signed by the student, the student's parent or guardian, and a representative of the organization for which the student performed the volunteer service work. “

### **Steps to Document the Bright Futures Volunteer Service Work Experience:**

1. Contact the agency or organization to discuss the social issue, civic issue or professional area of interest and develop a plan of action.
2. Complete the **Volunteer Service Work Plan** after developing a plan of action making certain to include all necessary signatures.
3. Submit the Volunteer Service Work Plan to the High School Counselor for approval.
4. Log the volunteer service work hours on the **Volunteer Service Work Hours Log**. The agency or organization contact person or supervisor must sign this documentation after each logged entry.
5. Submit the completed Volunteer Service Work Hours Log along with a presentation, journal, personal response essay or other method of self-evaluation of the volunteer service work to the High School Counselor.
6. The volunteer service work hours will be documented on the student's official high school transcript and all documentation will be **filed by the school counselor**.
7. It is suggested students keep copies of completed **Volunteer Service Work Hours Logs** for their own records. Students should also update Naviance resume to reflect service hours.
8. All volunteer paperwork (Volunteer Service Work Plan and Volunteer Service Work Hours Log) must be completed, signed, and submitted prior to graduation.

### **What Hours Cannot Count for Bright Futures Volunteer Service Work Hours?**

1. Court mandated community service
2. An activity for which a student benefited financially or materially for the volunteer service worked
3. Family related activities or service to family members (ex. babysitting, completing assigned chores, etc.)
4. Service for the sole benefit of a religious house of worship and/or its congregation. Activities sponsored by these organizations that benefit the community (mission trips, community cleanup events, vacation Bible School) **are** acceptable for Bright Futures
5. Donations, such as Locks of Love or giving blood
6. Service work that earns the student academic credit (except for credit earned through an approved service-learning course)
7. An activity where there is no responsible adult or supervisor on site to evaluate and confirm student performance

**Examples of Volunteer Service Work Opportunities:**

- American Cancer Society
- American Diabetes Association
- American Heart Association
- American Lung Association
- American Red Cross
- Big Brother/Big Sister
- Osceola County Library System
- Give Kids the World
- Osceola Animal Shelter
- Elder Care facilities
- Environmental Cleanup
- Goodwill Industries
- Habitat for Humanity
- Hospice
- Humane Society
- Teen Court
- March of Dimes
- Meals on Wheels
- Make a Wish Foundation
- Race for Cure
- SADD
- Salvation Army
- Special Olympics
- Tutoring
- United Way
- Boys and Girls Club
- YMCA

**Note:** This is not an all-inclusive list but rather just a list of agencies that have provided opportunities in the past and is provided for your convenience. The school district neither endorses, guarantees, nor makes any representation regarding the listed agencies; parents and adult students are strongly encouraged to investigate the agencies and make their own personal decisions regarding the sites.

## Bright Futures Scholarship Volunteer Service Work Hours Log

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Expected Graduation Year \_\_\_\_\_

Date	Number of Hours Worked	Task Performed (Brief Explanation)	Community Agency, School Agency, or Organization	Title/Signature of Supervisor and Phone Number
<b>Total Hours</b>				

Student Statement. I understand that:

1. It is my responsibility to maintain this Log of volunteer service work hours.
2. I may only earn volunteer service work hours after a Volunteer Service Work Plan Form has been filled out and approved.
3. I may only earn volunteer service work hours for Bright Futures in Grades 9-12.
4. I understand that volunteer service work hours may not be earned through:
  - a. Court mandated community service
  - b. An activity for which a student benefited financially or materially for the volunteer service worked
  - c. Family related activities or service to family members (ex. babysitting, completing assigned chores, etc.)
  - d. Service for the sole benefit of a religious house of worship and/or its congregation. Activities sponsored by these organizations that benefit the community (mission trips, community cleanup events, vacation Bible School) **are** acceptable for Bright Futures
  - e. Donations, such as Locks of Love or giving blood
  - f. Service work that earns the student academic credit (except for credit earned through an approved service-learning course).
  - g. An activity where there is no responsible adult or supervisor on site to evaluate and confirm student performance.

I verify that this Log is a true and accurate record of my unpaid volunteer service work hours.

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

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Bright Futures Scholarship Volunteer Service Work Plan



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student # \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Florida Bright Futures Scholarships are based on specific academic requirements and volunteer service work hours earned in grades 9-12. The volunteer service work hours are as follows:

- Florida Academic Scholars Award – 100 hours
- Florida Medallion Scholars Award – 75 hours
- Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award – 30 hours
- Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars Award – 30 hours

**Students must submit their Plan and have the Plan approved prior to beginning volunteer service work hours.** The Volunteer Service Work Log will be given to the student once the Plan has been approved. If at any time the volunteer service work changes, a new Plan MUST be submitted for review. The completed Volunteer Service Work Log must match the Plan.

Current seniors who would like to be considered for any of the Florida Bright Futures award levels at the seventh semester eligibility review should submit the Volunteer Service Work Log no later than the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> semester. Seniors who complete their volunteer service work hours during the eighth semester must submit the Volunteer Service Work Log **prior to graduation** to be considered for the Florida Bright Futures award in the reevaluation conducted following graduation.

**Section 1 - Identify a social issue, a civic issue or a professional area of interest:** See your School Counselor to discuss options for volunteer service work.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Section 2 – Name of agency (or agencies) where volunteer service work is to be performed:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Section 3 – Type(s) of volunteer service work to be performed:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Section 4 – Method of self-evaluation of service work experience:** The intent of this section is to encourage students to reflect upon the service work experience itself. Students consider the difference they have made in their community and/or the life-long learning skills of planning, organization, collaboration and leadership they have acquired.

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Journal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal response essay | <input type="checkbox"/> Other   |

**Signatures - Student and Parent Signatures below indicate that student and parent understand that:**

Student may only earn service work hours **after** the Volunteer Service Work Plan has been filled out and approved.

Student may only earn service work hours in Grades 9-12 (summer before 9<sup>th</sup> grade is acceptable after student has been promoted).

Transportation to and from outside agencies and/or organizations is the responsibility of the family.

I understand that volunteer service work hours may not be earned through:

- o Court mandated community service
- o An activity for which a student benefited financially or materially for the volunteer service worked
- o Family related activities or service to family members (ex. babysitting, completing assigned chores, etc.)
- o Service for the sole benefit of a religious house of worship and/or its congregation. Activities sponsored by these organizations that benefit the community (mission trips, community cleanup events, vacation Bible School) **are** acceptable for Bright Futures
- o Service work that earns the student academic credit
- o An activity where there is no responsible adult or supervisor on site to evaluate and confirm student performance

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Principal or designee signature below indicates that the student has presented an appropriate Volunteer Service Work Plan for meeting the volunteer service work requirement of the Bright Futures Scholarship Program and this Plan has been APPROVED.

Principal's (or Designee) Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_