

## ***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 for an interview 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 volunteer service designee at the high school 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 volunteer service work designee.
6. The completed forms shall be placed in the student's official cumulative file at the high school and the volunteer service work hours will be documented on the student's official high school transcript.
7. Seniors who would like their completed volunteer service hours to post for the Bright Futures Early Evaluation must have their Volunteer Service Work Hours Log submitted in to high school by the end of the first semester of their senior year.
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. Religious activity which can be interpreted as proselytizing (definition: to advocate, promote or attempt to convert (someone) from one religion, belief, or opinion to another.) This does not include religious education or service.
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
- Brevard Library System
- Brevard Sharing Centers
- Brevard Zoo
- Daily Bread
- Elder Care facilities
- Environmental Cleanup
- Goodwill Industries
- Habitat for Humanity
- Holmes Regional Hospital
- Hospice
- Hospitals
- Humane Society
- Leukemia and Lymphoma Society
- March of Dimes
- Meals on Wheels
- Make a Wish Foundation
- Race for Cure
- SADD
- Salvation Army
- Special Olympics
- Tutoring
- United Way
- 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.

**Note:** 2019 Legislation (CS/HB 807) added to the description of the hours that can be counted for Bright Futures Volunteer Service Work Hours:

“The hours that a high school student devotes to the Florida Debate Initiative, also known as the Central Florida Debate Initiative, the YMCA Youth Government Program, the American Legion Boys State Program, the American Legion Girls State Program, or other similar programs approved by the commissioner shall count towards the service work requirement for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program.”