



District School Board of Pasco County Community Service

Bright Futures Florida Academic Scholars Award, Florida Medallion Award, Gold Seal Vocational Award

To access an award through the Bright Futures Program, a student must complete a program of community service work OR paid 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 Community Service?

- An altruistic, uncompensated volunteer effort that benefits the community and/or special populations

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

- Students complete a Community Service Proposal Form and submit it for approval to the Community Service Designee at the school site **prior to beginning** the service.
- Students should keep copies of **all** documentation that is submitted to the schools.
- Projects done during the summer before beginning 9th grade will be considered **if a proposal is submitted and approved by the high school the student plans to attend.**
- Students must perform the service during **non-school** hours.
- **All community service hour documentation MUST be submitted by the school's graduation date. Any community service hours submitted after the graduation date even if earned prior to graduation will not be accepted. No Exceptions.**

Hours not acceptable for Community Service:

- Family related activities or service to family members, defined as: parents, grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and spouses, including all step relations.
- 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 (mission trips, community cleanup events, vacation Bible School) **are** acceptable for Bright Futures.
- Co-curricular activities that are course requirements.
- An activity where there is no leader or responsible adult on site to evaluate and confirm student performance.
- Donations (ex. blood, Locks of Love, monetary contributions)
- Hours submitted after graduation.

What is paid work experience?

- Employment completed through a business with an established Federal ID number
- Work hours completed after July 1, 2022, that are properly documented via pay stubs or a generated report

Community Service and Work Hours may not be combined for the purpose of meeting Bright Futures requirements. Whichever category indicates the greater number of hours will be report to FLDOE for eligibility.