HILLCREST
PRIVATE ACADEMY

Bright Futures Community Service or Paid Work Handbook

The student may identify a social or civic issue or a professional area that interests him or her, and develop a plan for his or her personal involvement in addressing the issue or learning about the area. The student must, through papers or other presentations, evaluate and reflect upon his or her experience. Such community service or paid 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 community service or paid work 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 community service or paid work.

What is Community Service as it applies to the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship?

Community Service is defined as identifying a social issue in the community. This requires students to look beyond themselves and reach out to an issue faced by our society (e.g. poverty, abuse, elderly citizen rights). These hours will meet the requirement for the Florida Academic Scholars, Florida Medallion Scholars or Gold Seal Vocational scholarships. The completed hours will be recorded on the transcript of the student.

Volunteer Service is defined as helping others when or where it is needed, but does not necessarily address a social issue. Although these hours will not be recorded on the high school transcript, students are encouraged to keep a log of the activities for documentation on college, job, and scholarship applications (other than Bright Futures).

What is Paid Work as it applies to the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship?

Paid Work Experience is defined as a job where students earn a weekly or biweekly paycheck and are able to document their work experience through timecards, W-2 statements, or pay stubs. Paid work hours will be recorded on the transcript for the student.

Students must complete the required number of community service, paid work hours, or the combination of 100 total hours. Service hours/paid work hours must be completed with an agency, company, organization, or business.

Scholarship	Community Service Hours Required	Paid Work Hours Required	Combination of Community Service/Paid Work Hours
Florida Academic Scholarship (FAS)	100	100	100
Florida Medallion Scholarship (FMS)	75	100	100
Gold Seal CAPE (GSC)	30	100	100
Gold Seal Vocational (GSV)	30	100	100

Community Service Hours

A partial list of possible community service experiences is provided below. This list should not be considered all-inclusive, as there are many more ideas for service to the community. You can use these links to Volunteer Florida and VolunteerMatch.org to assist you in finding community service opportunities in your area. If you are having difficulty locating service activities, please reach out to your school counselor.

Social Issue	Service Ideas
Abuse Issues	● Abuse Shelters
Animal Rights and Environmental Issues	● City & County Park Services ● Humane Society ● SPCA ● Wildlife Rehabilitation Centers
Diversity Issues	● Holocaust Museum
Elderly Citizen Issues	● Assisted Living Facilities ● Better Business Bureau Florida Elder Care ● Grand Kids ● Nursing Homes

	● Project Pups-Pets to Nursing Homes
Health Issues	● Alzheimer's Issues ● American Cancer Society ● American Heart Association ● American Red Cross ● Circle of Hope Volunteer Program ● Florida Covering Kids and Families ● Free Health Clinics ● Hospice ● Hospitals ● National Alliance on Mental Illness ● Rehabilitation Centers ● Therapeutic Clowning ● United Cerebral Palsy
Legal Issues	● Better Business Bureau ● Teen Court Arbitration ● Voter registration
Life Issues	● Anti-Smoking Campaigns ● Illiteracy ● Junior Achievement ● MCTFT–Multi-County Drug Task Force ● Pregnancy Crisis Center ● Straight Alliance-Sexuality issues ● TAPP–Alcohol Abuse ● Teen Suicide 211 ● Underage Drinking
Mentally/Physically Challenged Individuals Issues	● Best Buddies ● Canine Companions for Independence ● Horses for Handicapped ● Lighthouse for the Blind ● PAWS with a Cause ● Special Olympics ● YMCA
Mentoring Students	● Big Brother/Big Sister ● Boys Club/Girls Club ● Gulf Coast Autism Association ● Peer Connectors ● Peer to Peer ● Public Schools ● Ronald McDonald House
Need-Based/Poverty Issues	● American Second Harvest of Tampa Bay ● Clothes To Kids

	● Habitat for Humanity ● Holiday Toy Drives ● Homeless Emergency Project, Inc. ● Meals on Wheels ● Salvation Army ● Soup Kitchens ● Toys for Tots ● United Way
Tutoring- ESOL	● Adult literacy ● Children of the World–Pre-School ● Libraries
Tutoring- At Risk of Failing Students	● Big Brother/Big Sister ● Boys/Girls Clubs 547-KIDS ● Bridging the Achievement Gap ● Early Head Start ● Hospitals ● Libraries ● Public Schools–Academic Classes ● R-Club ● Recreation Centers ● Ronald McDonald House ● YMCA
Virtual Options for Service	● Smithsonian Digital Volunteers Transcription Center ● Operation Gratitude ● 7 Cups ● Learn to Be ● Brighten-A-Day ● Hands-On Orlando ● Heart of Florida United Way

What counts, what doesn't?

Community service projects will not be accepted if they were completed:
- Prior to the summer before entering Grade 9 (Service hours may begin after the last day of 8th grade has commenced) or after high school graduation
- As part of a court mandated community service
- Family related activities or service to family members (ex: babysitting, completing assigned chores, etc.)
- Service for the sole benefit of a religious house of worship and/or its congregation. Please note that activities sponsored by these organizations that

benefit the community (ex: mission trips or community cleanup events) are acceptable for Bright Futures

- Donations, such as Locks of Love or giving blood
- Service work that earns the student academic credit (except for credit earned through an approved service-learning course)
- Activities, events, or organizations that require fees to be paid to participate
- An activity where there is no responsible adult or supervisor on site to evaluate and confirm student performance. Please note that parents/guardians are not able to supervise community service projects.

Other activities that may qualify as volunteering but <u>not</u> as community service for the purpose of the Bright Futures Scholarship include but are not limited to the following:

- Washing your elderly neighbor's car or mowing his lawn
- School or club group car washes and fundraisers
- Babysitting for your neighbor
- Working in your parent's store or business
- Helping your pastor at your church with personal errands
- Church activities that benefit only the members of the church such as acolyte, altar server, lay reader, Vacation Bible School, working in a church nursery, or church choir

Completing and Documenting Community Service or Paid Work Hours:
Please follow the steps outlined below:

1. Students determine where they want to complete their community service/ paid work hours.
2. Complete the [HPA Bright Futures Community Service or Paid Work Approval Form](#) and submit the form to your school counselor BEFORE any hours are completed.
3. Complete your service/work hours. Document your hours and reflect on your experience using the [HPA Bright Futures Community Service or Paid Work Log and Reflection Form](#)
4. Collect any and all necessary documentation and signatures from the organization where the hours take place. Please note that you will need to complete one form for each organization you provide service/work hours for.
5. Submit the [HPA Bright Futures Community Service or Paid Work Log and Reflection Form](#) to your school counselor prior to high school graduation.

Forms and Documentation

Please download, complete and submit the following forms to properly document community service/paid work hours. Click on the links below:

- [HPA Bright Futures Community Service or Paid Work Approval Form](#)
- [HPA Bright Futures Community Service or Paid Work Log and Reflection Form](#)

For questions and support please contact your school counselor. Additional resources can be located on the High School page by clicking [here](#).