



# Gulf High School

## Community Service and Volunteering



### What is the Difference?

**Community Service** is defined as identifying and addressing a social issue in the community. This requires students

to look beyond themselves and reach out to an issue faced by our society today (i.e. poverty, abuse, assistance for the elderly, literacy in elementary education, falling graduation rates, homelessness). This list is not inclusive, just suggestions. These hours will meet the requirement for the Florida Bright Futures Award Program.

**Volunteer Service** is defined as assisting where needed and does not necessarily address a social issue. Although these hours are not recorded on the transcript, students can keep a log of these activities for use when applying for college, job applications, awards and scholarships other than Bright Futures.

### What hours should I turn in? What hours will appear on my transcript?

Community service hours are the **only hours** that will appear on the **High School transcript**. However, the school will provide a form for students to use to keep track of their volunteer hours. This form will be for their personal record, and WILL NOT be submitted to the school for community service. ALWAYS keep a copy of all of your hours, both community service and volunteer.

**Specific information  
regarding Bright Futures  
ON BACK! →**



# How can I earn community service for Bright Futures?

To access an award through the Bright Futures Program, a student must complete a program of community service work, as approved by the school, which will require the student to:

1. Identify a social problem that interests him or her
2. Develop a plan for his or her personal involvement in addressing the problem
3. Reflect upon his or her experience.

*(Florida Statute 1009.534)*

## **Florida Academic Scholars**

- 100 hours of community service

## **Florida Medallion Scholars**

- 75 hours of community service

## **Florida Gold Seal Vocational**

- 30 hours of community service

For additional information on Bright Futures Scholarship requirements, please visit:

<http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/ssfad/bf>

Students **MUST**:

1. Complete a community service proposal form and submit it for approval to the Career Specialist prior to beginning the service.
2. Students must reflect on their experience using the designated form at the conclusion of the project.
3. Students should keep copies of all documentation that is submitted to the schools.

Projects can be done during the summer before 9th grade, beginning July 1st, and will be considered to meet the requirement if a proposal is submitted and approved by the high school the student plans to attend before beginning the project.

Students must perform the service during non-school hours. Fundraising may count as community service if all funds raised are donated to address a social issue in the community.

## Hours NOT acceptable as community service:

- Family related activities
- Hours that are compensated either financially or with some other material benefit
- Court-mandated community service
- Service for the sole benefit of a religious house of worship and/or its congregation
- Service for promoting a political candidate
- 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)

***\*This list is designed as a guide and not exclusive. Determination of approval for Community Service is determined by the school, based on proposal received.***