

**UNITED FOR EVERY  
STUDENT TO SUCCEED**

30 East Texar Dr., Pensacola, FL 32503  
P. 850 432 6121 • F. 850 469 6379

[escambiaschools.org](http://escambiaschools.org)



**Escambia County**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**BRIGHT FUTURES COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS  
INFORMATION**

According to Florida Statutes (F.S. 1009.534, 1009.535, 1009.536) to be eligible for a Bright Futures Scholarship, “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...[and which] must identify a social or civic issue or a professional area 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”

**Community Service:** Volunteer service as defined by statute is voluntary work that addresses a social issue in the community, e.g. poverty, elder rights, abuse, etc. or centered on a professional area of interest to the student.

**Volunteering:** Voluntary work that does not address a social issue; e.g. babysitting, singing in a choir, participating on a sports team, etc. Although not accepted for Bright Futures, students are encouraged to keep track of these hours for college applications and other scholarships for which they may be eligible.

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- 1) Students must submit their BF Community Service Hours Proposal(s) to their School Counselor for approval prior to beginning the community service.
  - a) Students may earn their hours at more than one (1) agency and address more than one (1) social issue if desired, however, students will need a separate Proposal form for each organization.
- 2) It is preferred that students submit their community service hours by May, at the latest, each year to allow Counselors ample time to enter the hours into Focus. It is required that all BF community service hours be submitted prior to the student's graduation date. Bright Futures will not allow students to submit community service hours earned after graduation. (Use Bright Futures Community Service Log and Reflection Form to document)
  - a) Students must have all necessary signatures before turning in their BF Community Service Time Log and Reflection Form to their School Counselor.
    - i) A friend or relative may not verify service hours.
- 3) Seniors who want their community service hours to post for the Bright Futures Early Evaluation **must** have their hours turned in to their School Counselor by the middle of December of their Senior year.
- 4) Community service hours earned by non-Escambia County students may be honored if:
  - a) the previous school verifies the hours, or
  - b) students provide signed documentation on agency letterhead of the number of hours earned and dates of service completed (this also applies to Florida homeschooled students).
- 5) Community service hours earned by out of state and in-state students without documentation from their previous school can complete and submit the Proposal explaining what the hours entailed. If approved, the student can complete the Time Log and Reflection Form and the hours will be accepted.
- 6) Students who have community service hours already entered in Focus prior to the 17/18 school year will be grandfathered in.

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**BRIGHT FUTURES**

**COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS REQUIREMENTS**

Florida Academic Scholars	100
Florida Medallion Scholars	75
Gold Seal Vocational Scholars	30
Gold Seal CAPE	30

**Community Service Organizations Examples** (These are only examples of possible options; contact the organization and meet with your School Counselor before beginning any community service hours you hope to use for Bright Futures)

Alfred Washburn Center (Helping the Homeless) <http://www.alfredwashburn.org/>

Boys and Girls Club <https://emeraldcoastbgc.org/volunteer/>

CIL Disability Resource Center (Serving Individuals with Disabilities) <http://www.cil-drc.org/>

Catholic Charities (Variety of community needs served) <https://ccnwfl.org/getinvolved/>

Chain Reaction (Variety of service opportunities - The following are currently **NOT** accepted: Human Jukebox, Get Grounded and Oldies but Goodies) <http://www.mychainreaction.org/>

Churches (Food pantries, Visiting with Elderly, Clothing closets) **NOTE: Not all church work counts!**

Council on Aging (Elder Assistance) <http://www.coawfla.org/>

Feeding the Gulf Coast (Stamping out Hunger) <https://feedingthegulfcoast.org/volunteer/>

Hospitals

Learn to Read NW Florida (Helping Adults Read) <https://learntoreadnwf.org/get-involved/>

Manna Food Pantries (Stamping out Hunger) <https://www.mannahelps.org/>

Red Cross (Disaster Relief, Other needs served) <http://www.redcross.org/volunteer/volunteer-opportunities>

United Way (Education, Health) <http://www.unitedwayescambia.org/volunteer>

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**BRIGHT FUTURES COMMUNITY SERVICE PROPOSAL**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Legal Name) Last First Middle  
 School: \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Organization(s) where the hours will be performed:</b>			
<b>Describe Activity:</b>			
<b>What social issue(s) will your activity address (circle all that apply):</b>	Abuse	Animals	Education
	Elderly	Environment	Health
	Homelessness	Hunger	Poverty
	Political candidate/Public office		Business or Governmental Internship
	<b>Specify:</b>		
<b>Answer yes (Y) or no (N) to the following questions*:</b>			<b>Y/N</b>
1. Is the activity family related?			
2. Will you be compensated either financially or with some other material benefit?			
3. Is the activity court mandated community service?			
4. Is the sole purpose of this service work for religion or worship?			
5. Will you be fostering animals?			
6. Is the activity required for one of your classes or club membership?			
7. Are you receiving an academic credit for this service work? (excluding credit earned through approved service earning courses)			
8. Is this activity participation on a sports team or a performance of any kind?			
9. Are you donating an item like blood, hair, or canned food?			
10. Will the hours be submitted after your graduation?			
11. Will a leader or responsible adult (not parent/guardian) with the <u>organization</u> be on site to evaluate and confirm student performance?			

\*Answering "Yes" to any question 1-10 renders the proposed community service activity not permissible.

***Keep copies for your records of all documentation.***

I understand that this proposal to participate in community service is entirely voluntary on my part and that the completion of documented community service related to this proposal can be used to satisfy the community service requirement of the Florida Academic Scholarship, Florida Medallion Scholarship, Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award and Gold Seal CAPE award. Selection of the organization, services performed, and documentation are the responsibility of the student. Signature of the Community Service Contact indicates that the student has presented an appropriate social issue for meeting the community service requirement of the Bright Futures Scholarship Program. **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.** A parent/guardian cannot represent as a service agency.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
High School Community Service Contact Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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**BRIGHT FUTURES COMMUNITY SERVICE REFLECTION**

This form must be completed and attached to the Bright Futures Community Service Log

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ ID# \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Name \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Address \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Contact(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Activity \_\_\_\_\_

Reflect on your Community Service Experience. Describe what you learned about yourself and the people you helped; what you liked and/or disliked about the experience.

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Verification of Community Service

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

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

Supervisor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date Received \_\_\_\_\_

Date Entered \_\_\_\_\_



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**BRIGHT FUTURES COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS  
CHECKLIST**

**Prior to beginning any BF Community Service Hours:**

- I have submitted my BF Community Service Hours Proposal to my School Counselor
- I have received approval for my BF Community Service Hours Proposal

**BF Community Service Hours Documentation:**

- I am recording each service date on my BF Community Service Log
- I am collecting Supervisor Signatures for each date of service

**Prior to turning in my BF Community Service Hours:**

- I have completed the BF Community Service Log and Reflection Form
- I have gotten all required signatures on the BF Community Service Log and Reflection Form
- I have made a copy of my BF Community Service Log and Reflection Form for my records
- I have submitted my BF Community Service paperwork (Log/Reflection Form) to my School Counselor

**NOTE: Service hours are only one (1) component required to be eligible for a Bright Futures Scholarship. For more information please visit the [Bright Futures](#) website.**

**In addition to the eligibility requirements, students must complete and submit the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) prior to graduation.**