



Ridgeview Global Studies Academy

Community Service Information Sheet

Community Service is defined as identifying a social issue in the community. This requires students to look beyond themselves and reach out to a social issue faced by our society today. These hours will meet one of the requirements for Florida Bright Futures Scholarship, RGSA annual awards/honors, and high school elective credit. These services must be rendered at a non-profit organization.

Volunteer Service is defined as assisting where needed and does not address a social issue. Although these hours are not recorded by the Community Service Coordinator, students can keep a log of these activities for use when applying for college, job applications, honors/awards and other scholarships other than Florida Bright Futures. It is important to know that volunteer hours do not count as one of the requirements for Florida Bright Futures Scholarship.

QUICK FACTS

Fact 1: Community service is not required to graduate, but it highly recommended.

Fact 2: Community service is required for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship. The Academic scholarship (FAS) requires 100 community service hours and the Medallion scholarship (FMS) requires 75 hours. Please note, community service hours is only one component to be considered eligible for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship.

Fact 3: Community service and volunteer service are not the same as defined above.

Fact 4: The service may be performed at more than one agency and address more than one social issue; however, an application must be completed and approved for each agency.

Fact 5: Students must be a high school student enrolled in grades 9-12.

Fact 6: Students may begin this process the summer before 9th grade, as long as they have been promoted.

Fact 7: Students may receive ½ elective credit for each 75 hours of service (up to a maximum of 1 credit) and the hours may be accumulated throughout the student's high school career.

Fact 8: Students may not receive the Record of Community Service form until the Community Service Application and Approval form has been submitted and approved by Mrs. Parsons (the Record of Community Service form can only be obtained from Mrs. Parsons).

STEPS TO COMPLETE COMMUNITY SERVICE

Step 1: Review the community service information sheet and speak with Mrs. Parsons if there are questions/concerns.

Step 2: Contact the agency and set up an "interview" to discuss the social issue that will be addressed and have them complete Part B of the Community Service Application and Approval Form.

Step 3: Complete all parts of the Community Service Application and Approval Form.

Step 4: Submit the Community Service Application and Approval Form to Mrs. Parsons for approval.

Step 5: Once the Community Service Application has been approved, then the student will receive their Record of Community Service Hours log sheet (this sheet can only be obtained from Mrs. Parsons).

Step 6: Keep a detailed log of your activities on the Record of Community Service Hours log.

Step 7: If the student is seeking high school elective credit, please see Ms. Frier for the process.

Step 8: All completed forms must be turned into Mrs. Parsons and thus filed in the student's official cumulative folder and the community service hours will be documented on the student's official high school transcript.

WHAT HOURS CANNOT BE COUNTED

- An activity for which the student benefited financially or materially.
- Family related activities or service to family members (ex: babysitting, completing assigned chores)
- 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 for the religious organization.

- Donations, such as Locks of Love, giving blood, or collecting items for a food/toy drive.
- Service work that earns the student academic credit (except for the elective credit earned through an approved service-learning course).
- An activity where there is no responsible adult or supervisor on site to confirm student participation.

The student's community service hours must address one or more of the following social concerns and be part of a non-profit organization

- SERVICE TO YOUTH: provide leadership, guidance, and activities for the youth in your community (ex: Toys for Tots, after school tutoring, assisting at after school events, community festivals, Give Kids the World, YMCA, Big Brother/Big Sister, etc.).
- QUALITY OF LIFE: work towards improving the standard of living for the residents of your community (ex: homeless shelter, SPCA, Humane Society, local food bank, United Way, Goodwill Industries, Salvation Army, Meals on Wheels, etc.).
- ELDER CARE: provide opportunities for senior citizens to enhance independent living or assist with promoting a quality life (ex: local nursing homes, grocery shopping, provide entertainment like BINGO games, etc.).
- HEALTH/SAFETY: provide services to promote the health, welfare and safety of the residents of your community (ex: Relay for Life, March of Dimes, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Race for the Cure, American Cancer Society, American Heart Society, American Red Cross, etc.).
- DEVELOPMENTALLY AND/OR PHYSICALLY DISABLED: provide services in an effort to improve and enrich the lives of the mentally and physically disabled members of your community (ex: Special Olympics, assist in group homes, tutoring for daily life skills, Make a Wish Foundation, etc.).
- ENVIRONMENTAL/HISTORICAL PRESERVATION: provide services to promote and encourage the preservation of the environment and/or the protection of historical sites (ex: beach clean-up, hurricane relief projects, Habit for Humanity, community beautification projects, neighborhood clean-up projects, etc.).
- ARTS/CULTURE: provide services to encourage the growth of the arts in your community (ex: assist at fundraising performances, singing Christmas carols in a nursing home or other community center, Very Special Arts, Arts on the Park, etc.).

SPECIAL NOTE – MISSION TRIPS

- Maximum of 8 hours per day, unless prior approval granted by Ms. Frier.
- Time must be omitted for down time (ex: meals, personal activities).
- Activities must be consistent with guidelines for all church community service (no worship and/or evangelism hours can be counted).

FLORIDA BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENT

- Florida Academic Scholarship: 100 hours
- Florida Medallion Scholarship: 75 hours

Ridgeview Global Studies Academy's Community Service Coordinator is Mrs. Nicole Parsons; please contact her with any questions or concerns at the Secondary Campus. Her contact information is (863)419-3171 or

nicole.parsons@rgsa.com

