Bright Futures Scholarship
Volunteer Service and Paid Work Information Sheet

Per the state of Florida, eligibility for a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship award requires that students meet grade point average minimums, take certain courses and meet testing requirements. For specific requirements concerning grade point average, courses needed and minimum SAT or ACT scores, please see the [Florida Bright Futures Website](#) and/or contact your high school counselor.

Scholarship eligibility also requires that students complete volunteer service or paid work hours as approved by the local school district for Florida Bright Futures Program. Students must be a high school student, enrolled in grades 9 – 12. (NOTE: Summer before 9th grade is acceptable once the student has been promoted to the 9th grade and IF the Volunteer Service/Paid Work Plan has been submitted.)

Florida Statute 1009.534, 1009.535, 1009.536 regarding the Bright Futures Volunteer Service and Paid Work:

The student must complete a program of volunteer service or, beginning with a high school student graduating in the 2022-2023 academic year and thereafter, paid work, as approved by the district school board, the administrators of a nonpublic school, or the Department of Education for home education program students, which must include:

- Florida Academic Scholarship – 100 hours volunteer service **OR** 100 hours paid work **OR** a combination of 100 hours of volunteer service and paid work hours
- Florida Medallion Scholarship – 75 hours volunteer service **OR** 100 hours paid work **OR** a combination of 100 hours of volunteer service and paid work hours
- Florida Gold Seal Scholarship - 30 hours volunteer service **OR** 100 hours paid work **OR** a combination of 100 hours of volunteer service and paid work hours
- Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholarship - 30 hours volunteer service **OR** 100 hours paid work **OR** a combination of 100 hours of volunteer service and paid work hours

The student may identify a social or civic issue or a professional area that is of interest and develop a plan for personal involvement in addressing the issue or learning about the area. The student must, through papers or other presentations, evaluate and reflect upon their volunteer service or paid work experience.

Such volunteer 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 volunteer 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 volunteer service or paid work.

Steps to Document the Bright Futures Volunteer Service or Paid Work Experience:

1. Contact the agency or organization for an interview to discuss the social issue, civic issue or professional area of interest and develop a plan of action.
2. Complete the **Volunteer Service/Paid Work Plan** after developing a plan of action making certain to include all necessary signatures.
3. Submit the **Volunteer Service/Paid Work Plan** to the designee at the high school for review.
4. Log the volunteer service/work hours on the **Volunteer Service/Paid Work Hours Log**. The agency or organization contact person or supervisor must sign this documentation after each logged entry.
5. Submit the completed **Volunteer Service/Paid Work Hours Log** along with a presentation or personal response essay to the high school designee.
6. The completed forms shall be placed in the student's official cumulative file at the high school and the volunteer service or paid work hours will be documented on the student's official high school transcript.
7. Seniors who would like their completed volunteer service or paid work hours to post for the Bright Futures Early Evaluation must have their **Volunteer Service/Paid Work Hours Log** submitted to their high school by the end of the first semester of their senior year.
8. All volunteer paperwork (**Volunteer Service/Paid Work Plan** and **Volunteer Service/Paid Work Hours Log**) must be completed, signed, and submitted prior to graduation.

What Hours Cannot Count for Bright Futures Volunteer Service/Paid Work Hours?

1. Court mandated community service
2. An activity for which a student benefited financially or materially for the volunteer service worked.
3. Family related activities or service to family members (ex. babysitting, completing assigned chores, etc.)
4. 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.
5. Donations such as Locks of Love, giving blood, canned food collections, or toy collections.
6. Service work that earns the student academic credit (except for credit earned through an approved service-learning course).
7. An activity where there is no responsible adult or supervisor on site to evaluate and confirm student performance.
8. The number of service hours that are earned cannot be doubled or in any way increased by any agency or school (Example: 1 hour worked = 1 hour of volunteer service work).
9. Any activity, event, or performance in which an admission is charged, or a donation collected; unless the work plan proposal documents a social, civic, or professional area of interest.

Examples of Volunteer Service Opportunities:

- American Cancer Society
- American Diabetes Association
- American Heart Association
- American Lung Association
- American Red Cross
- Big Brother/Big Sister
- Brevard Library System
- Brevard Sharing Centers
- Brevard Zoo
- Daily Bread
- Elder Care facilities
- Environmental Cleanup
- Goodwill Industries
- Habitat for Humanity
- Holmes Regional Hospital
- Hospice
- Hospitals
- Humane Society
- Leukemia and Lymphoma Society
- March of Dimes
- Meals on Wheels
- Make a Wish Foundation
- Race for Cure
- SADD
- Salvation Army
- Special Olympics
- Tutoring
- United Way
- YMCA

Note: This is not an all-inclusive list but rather just a list of agencies that have provided opportunities in the past and is provided for your convenience. The school district neither endorses, guarantees, nor makes any representation regarding the listed agencies; parents and students are strongly encouraged to investigate the agencies and make their own personal decisions regarding the sites.