

Hours That Count

- United Way agencies
- Nonprofit agencies
- Special Olympics
- School Volunteer programs
- Chambers of Commerce
- Political action
- Nursing homes, hospitals, non profit clinics
- Museums
- Libraries
- Service club activities that provide a benefit to the community
- Teen Trendsetter Reading Mentors
- Service Learning activities conducted through the curriculum

Hours That Require Approval

- Elderly and disabled persons
- Service work that helps churches provide a benefit to the community
- Symphony and community theatre

Hours That Do Not Count

- Regular practice time and meeting times for extra-curricular activities and clubs
- Saturday School or any detention/work detail
- Court ordered community service
- Church related activity related to worship and evangelization
- Service performed for pay
- Service related to armed services recruitment requirements
- Babysitting
- Veterinarians and physicians office
- School music or dramatic production where credit is earned
- For profit organization
- Job Shadowing

The School Board of Polk County does not certify, interview, authorize, recommend or contract with any person or entity as it relates to community service hours. Students and their parents are responsible for deciding where community service will be performed. The School Board of Polk County is not responsible for the supervision, safety, or wellbeing of any students performing community service hours for any person or entity.

2011-2012 *Community Service Program* *For High School Students*



Polk County Public Schools

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Keyword: Community Service

The Mission of Polk County Public Schools is to ensure rigorous, relevant learning experiences that result in high achievement for our students.

Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

Contact: Kay Noble 863-534-0027

All scholarships within the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program require community service.

- Florida Academic Scholar: 100 hours
- Florida Medallion Scholar: 75 hours
- Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholar: 30 hours

A Community Service Plan Form must be completed that describes the social problem being served, the plan for personal involvement and a final evaluation of the volunteer experience.

High School Credit Program

Contact: David Lewis 863.534.0624

- Students in grades 9-12 will receive one-half credit (75 hours) or one credit (150 hours) in an elective community service or social studies course.
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- Credit may not exceed 1 total credit.
- Students complete a community service plan which identifies a social problem, the plan for personal involvement, and a final evaluation of the experience.

Awards for Documented Service

**Contact: Margaret Anne Wheeler
863.534.0636**

Annual Awards

Certificate

Awarded annually to recognize students with 10-49 hours.

Certificate with embossed seal

Awarded annually to recognize student for service beyond 50 hours.

Silver Pin

One time award when students serve 100 or more hours.

Graduation Awards

Medallion and Silver Cord

Awarded in the senior year to wear at graduation for students accumulating 250 hours or more during grades 9-12.

Exceeding Expectations Medal

Awarded to students accumulating 1000 hours or more during grades 9-12

Procedures and Guidelines

Registration

- Before serving hours, students complete and submit the Student Application and Parent Approval Form to the High School Community Service Coordinator.
- Guidance counselors will direct students seeking credit or participating in the *Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program*.
- Application must be made before March 1 of the students' senior year.
- Student forms are available at: www.polk-fl.net/students/collegeandcareer/communityservice.html
- School coordinators have authority to verify or deny hours served.
- The principal of the school has the authority to dismiss a student from the Community Service Program.

Serving your hours

- Students may serve hours during the summer preceding the 9th grade year upon completion of required forms.
- Service hours earned during regular school hours require prior approval from the community service coordinator.
- Family members may not sign off on hours served.
- Service to individuals must be verified by an eligible agency.
- Students and their parents can view volunteer opportunities at www.sweatmonkey.org or the United Way website, keyword: Quick Guide.

Agencies

- Agencies register on www.sweatmonkey.org. Or complete an agency application.
- Agency Staff sign off on the completed Record of Volunteer Service Hours Form.