

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
- Curriculum based Service Learning

Hours That Require Advance Approval

- Elderly and disabled persons
- Service work that helps churches address social problems
- Symphony and community theatre
- Church related activity during worship and evangelization
- Child Care
- Veterinarians and physicians office
- For profit organization

Hours That Do Not Count

- Regular practice time and meeting times for extra-curricular activities and clubs
- Saturday School or detention/work detail
- Court ordered community service
- Service performed for pay
- Service related to armed services recruitment requirements
- School music or dramatic production where credit is earned
- 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.

2012-2013 *Community Service Program* *For High School Students*



Polk County Public Schools

P.O. Box 391
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www.polk-fl.net

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

High School Credit Program

Contact: David Lewis 863.534.0521

High school students may receive one-half credit (for each 75 hours served) in a voluntary public service elective course (05003700) or in a voluntary school/community service course (21043300). A maximum of one credit can be earned.

For both programs, students are required to complete a **Community Service Plan Form** that describes the social problem being served, the plan for personal involvement and a final evaluation of the service experience.

Awards for Documented Service

(effective for incoming Freshman class of 2012 – 13)

**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 students for service beyond 50 hours.

Graduation Awards

Silver Cord

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

Exceeding Expectations Medallion

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
Keyword: Community Service.
- 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.

Service 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.noblehour.com or the United Way website, www.uwcf.org keyword: Quick Guide.

Agencies

- Agency Staff sign off on the completed **Record of Volunteer Service Hours Form**.