

# Why are Community Service Hours important?

- ⇒ **Scholarship Qualification, College Acceptance, FREE FUNDING with Bright Futures!**
- Many scholarships are looking for your involvement in things outside of your classes/area of study. Many will have you write about your volunteer experiences as part of your application and will want to know how many hours were spent volunteering.
  - Bright Futures Scholarship (Florida funding) in particular **REQUIRES** a minimum number of hours to receive the award. So, even if you have the required minimum GPA and SAT/ACT score—if you do not have service hours, you will not receive the funding.
    - Bright Futures Academic Scholars award covers 100% of tuition and fees PLUS \$300 stipend each semester to use for books, supplies, etc. at all State Universities and Colleges and is accepted at most private institutions in Florida.
    - Bright Futures Medallion Scholars award covers 75% of tuition and fees.
  - ⇒ Note: If not funded the year after graduating from high school, student must apply within 2 years of graduating from high school to have the award reinstated.
  - Many colleges and universities look for involvement outside of the classroom, and that is many times verified through your logged community service hours.

# How do I make my Community Service hours count?

- ⇒ **Attend a 15-minute Training and Track Your Time**
- Volusia County requires students to attend YPP Training once in 9th-12th grade, before their logged hours can be entered. Training consists of a (12) minute power point presentation and 15 question post-test. Training is offered throughout the year during lunch and after school.
  - Track your time using the provided YPP (Youth Partnership Program) Sign-in Sheet and Agreement.
  - Turn your completed sheets in to the Resource Room 1-238 in Student Services.

# “But, I don’t volunteer anywhere!” “I’m already a Senior...” What now?

- ⇒ **There are a lot of things that will count toward your Community Service hours that you probably already do!**
- Are you involved in school clubs, organizations or sports? Do you help at after school functions or events? Then, you probably already have time that you can log! Speak to your club or organization leader, coach, faculty member in charge of the event, or go to the Resource Room to ask.
  - Do you help at your church, religious organization, community center or your prior school? Time spent volunteering at these, and many other places, count as Community Service hours!
  - Even if you are a Senior, it is not too late to log hours for service that you have already done. As long as the activity happened during your high school grades, you can go back and record the hours.
  - **When in doubt—ASK!** Don’t miss out on an opportunity to record hours. ***Don’t leave money on the table by not qualifying for scholarships and funding simply because you didn’t take the time to fill out a few pieces of paper!***

**Questions? Contact Mrs. Scheurman in the Resource Room 1-238 \* Ext. 54348 \* [tascheue@volusia.k12.fl.us](mailto:tascheue@volusia.k12.fl.us)**