

## **FCA COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM INFORMATION 2016-2017**

### **What is Community Service?**

FCA's mission statement is "Changing our Culture and Community for Christ." One tangible way to do this is in the area of community service. The goal for the Community Service Program is for our high school students to learn the value and importance of showing Christ to others through service. We want to reinforce this by encouraging them to serve in their communities, churches, and local agencies that are committed to serving those less fortunate. Community Service is also a great way to learn about possible careers – if a student is interested in medicine, for example, a good service project would be to volunteer at a hospital or nursing home. Community service will give our students great experience, a rewarding sense of accomplishment, and a chance to help someone in need. It will also provide opportunities for students interested in meeting the required number of hours for Florida's Bright Futures Scholarship awards.

### **Is Community Service a requirement for FCA students?**

Community service **is not** required for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, but recommended. If a student plans to apply for the National Junior Honor Society, community service experience will be part of the application process, and if you are inducted into the NJHS, community service becomes a requirement.

Community service **is** a *requirement for graduation from FCA* for students in grades 9–12. A total of **60** hours must be served during a student's high school career. Students must complete **15** hours per year in order to be eligible to return to FCA the following school year.

Students may begin accruing community service hours the summer of the year in which they begin 9th grade, and continue throughout their high school experience.

### **What is the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program?**

The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program is a lottery-funded state scholarship program designed to reward Florida high school graduates for high academic achievement. Part of the requirement for these scholarships include community service.

Each public and private high school in Florida has the ability to establish their own requirements for a community service program.\* For students who are interested in applying for state scholarship money through Florida's Bright Futures program, the academic and service eligibility requirement details can be found at:

<http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/>

*\*(Florida Student Scholarship Grant Programs webpage states: "Students must complete service hours during high school and by high school graduation. Each public school district and private school establishes approved activities and the process for documentation of service hours.")*

## What are the Criteria and Guidelines for FCA's Community Service Program?

- Work for the glory of God (I Corinthians 10:31) and seek ways you can be of service to your community.
- Service may be volunteered to your church, school, and/or a community.
- Students may not be paid for service rendered.
- The accumulation of hours must include two different types of service:
  - 1- "On Campus Hours" - hours that can be served through your church and/or school, and
  - 2 - "Off Campus Hours" – hours that can be served when you leave the campus of your church and/or school.
- By the end of each school year, you must have more "Off Campus Hours" than "On Campus Hours."
- Half of your service requirement must be completed each semester. (7.5 hours are due by January 13, 2017, and the other 7.5 hours are due by May 27, 2017).
- The Community Service Log must be filled out by the student (not the parent), dated, and signed by a supervising adult. The documentation on the Community Service Log will include: a complete description of the service performed; details of your role and describing how what you did was of service to the community; the date of the service; and the signature of a supervising adult. You may use multiple lines on the log sheet and use as many log sheets as you need.

Remember that the above criteria will not cover all circumstances. You must get approval from Mrs. Stone before participating. Good guideline questions are: *how does this activity address an area of need? Can I have a positive impact on this community through serving in this area?*

### Community Service is NOT:

- Helping family with tasks like taking your grandmother to the grocery store, cleaning your mother's house, babysitting your sister's kids, mowing a neighbor's lawn, etc. These services are not considered by universities or other organizations as "volunteering;" these are seen as things you should be doing as a family member, as a neighbor, etc.
- Services may not be performed for a student's family or for a profit-making organization, except for institutions like hospitals or the humane society.
- Service rendered as a prerequisite for employment will not count.
- Attendance at self-improvement workshops or conferences will not count as service.
- Service performed as a result of disciplinary action taken by the school or courts cannot count.
- Volunteer work for the purpose of promoting an upcoming event cannot count as volunteer hours in this program. For example, if your church youth group helps with the Special Olympics or has a coat drive for the homeless shelter, hours worked in preparation for those events and hours worked during the event would count, but not the time spent advertising or distributing flyers about an event.

**Community Service Ideas – where can I serve?** (This list is not all-inclusive)

- Adopt-a-Highway program
- Animal shelter
- Science Lab Assistant (ask the teacher first)
- Blanket / Coat Drive
- Christmas Parade work; Christmas Shoe Box (Operation Christmas Child)
- Church programs like volunteering in the Nursery; VBS helper / worker; church camp work\* (clean-up; landscaping; painting, etc.)
- Environmental needs - community clean-up days; clearing hiking trails; beach clean-up, etc.
- Fall Festival - FCS
- Fire Station – help with station clean-up / wash fire trucks
- Food Drives
- Food Pantry / Food Bank
- Homeless Shelter / Ministry
- Hospital
- Library
- Mission Trips / Humanitarian Aid trips \*
- Nursing Home Ministry
- Playground clean-up
- Pray then Play (concessions)
- Soup Kitchen
- Special Olympics
- Thanksgiving baskets
- The Foster Closet (First Baptist Church; need training first)
- Thrift Stores (non-profit)
- Toy Drive
- Troop Support
- Tutoring (see Mrs. Stone for details)

\*A special note about mission trips, summer camps, and similar service opportunities: only time spent in direct service or contact is categorized as service hours. For example, hours spent traveling, eating, or in group devotions would not be considered service hours.

*For further questions, contact Mrs. Stone, Student Services Director, 386-454-1641 ext. 2011;  
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