

FCA COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM INFORMATION 2017-2018

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 the 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.

Is Community Service a requirement for FCA students?

7th and 8th Grade: Community service **is not** required, but highly 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.

9th – 12th Grade: Community service **is a requirement for graduation from FCA**. 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; extra hours do not roll over to the next year.

Students may begin working toward their service hours the summer of the year in which they begin 9th grade.

Do the service hours count toward Florida's Bright Futures Scholarship Program?

Yes.* The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program is a lottery-funded state scholarship program designed to reward Florida high school graduates for high academic achievement. One requirement component for these scholarships include community service. The hours that a student works at FCA will count toward these scholarships. It is up to the student and parent to keep up with the detailed records of these hours; FCA will also keep track of the records and provide a written document of the total number of hours upon request.

*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."* Detailed academic and service eligibility requirement details can be found at: www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org

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

- Work for the glory of God (I Corinthians 10:31). Seek ways you can be of service to your community.
- Service may be volunteered to your church, your school, and other communities.
- 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."
- You do not need to wait until the due date to turn in your hours. Please turn them in as they are completed.
- **A total of 15 hours (minimum 7.5 off campus), will be due on May 14, 2018.**
- The Community Service Log Sheet must be filled out by the student (**not the parent or the supervisor**), dated, and signed by the supervising adult. Follow the instructions on the Log Sheet. You may use as many Log Sheets as needed. Incomplete information will be returned and credit will not be assigned until directions are followed.

Remember that the above criteria will not cover all circumstances. Good guideline questions to ask yourself: 1- *How does this activity address an area of need?* 2 -*Can I have a positive impact on this community through serving in this area?*

Community Service is **NOT**:

- Helping family and neighbors with certain tasks like taking your grandmother to the grocery store, cleaning your mother's house, babysitting a relative's kids, mowing a neighbor's lawn, etc. These services are not considered by most organizations and universities as "volunteering;" these are seen as things you should already 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 leadership conferences will not count as service.
- Service performed as a result of disciplinary action taken by the school or by a court 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?

- Adopt-a-Highway program (See FCA office for dates)
- Animal Shelter, Humane Society
- Science Lab Assistant (ask the teacher first)
- Blanket / Coat Drive
- Christmas Parade work
- Christmas Shoe Box / Operation Christmas Child (help at a distribution center)
- Church programs like Nursery/Sunday School Helper; 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 restocking / Food Bank
- Homeless Shelter / Ministry
- Hospital
- Library
- Mission Trips / Humanitarian Aid trips *
- Nursing Home Ministry
- Community Playground clean-up
- FBC's Pray then Play program (concessions; asst. coach; referee)
- Soup Kitchen
- Special Olympics
- Thanksgiving baskets
- FBC's The Foster Closet (must be trained first - contact church office)
- Thrift Stores (non-profit)
- 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.

This list is not all-inclusive. If you wish to participate in any project that is not listed above, you must ask Mrs. Stone for approval.

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