

FCA COMMUNITY SERVICE GUIDELINES and INFORMATION – 2018 -2019

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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 through non-profit agencies that are committed to serving those less fortunate in the communities and churches.* Community service will give our students great experience, a rewarding sense of accomplishment, and the opportunity to help others in need. Volunteering is also a great way to learn about potential careers. Try to line up your areas of service with areas of interest. When trying to determine "what to do" for volunteer service hours, guiding questions to ask are: 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?*

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 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, your local community and/or 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 on the campus of your local church and/or your school (FCA).
 2. "Off Campus Hours" – hours that can be served off the campus of your local church and/or your school (FCA).
By the end of each school year, at least half of your hours must be "Off Campus Hours" (7.5 hours).
- Turn in Log Sheets as they are completed; you do not need to wait until the due date. You may use as many Log Sheets as needed. *Credit will not be assigned for incomplete information / not following directions.*
- **It is the responsibility of the student to keep track of and turn in Community Service Hours Log Sheets on or before the deadline.** *Report cards and records will be held for those not turning in hours and the student will not be considered enrolled for the following school year until hours are turned in.*
- **DUE DATES:** Make it your goal to turn in any summer hours by the first week of school and at least half of your hours by the end of the first semester (December 21, 2018.) **The DEADLINE for Log Sheets totaling 15 HOURS is Monday, May 13, 2019, which is the week before Final Exams.**

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 for a relative, mowing a neighbor's lawn, preparing food for a family in your church, etc. While these services are admirable and good, they are not considered by most organizations and universities as "volunteering in the community," and are viewed as tasks you should already be doing as a responsible 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 and 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 will not 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 (with non-profit organizations)

- Animal Shelter; Humane Society
- Christmas Parade (includes preparation work; participation in parade: see FCA Student Council Advisor)
- Christmas Shoe Box / Operation Christmas Child (help with distribution or at a preparation center)
- Church Camp work* (clean-up; landscaping; painting, etc.)
- Church programs like Nursery/Sunday School Helper; VBS Helper/Worker
- Clothing / Blanket / Coat Drive – through churches or other non-profit organizations
- Diaper Drive
- Environmental needs – Adopt-A-Highway program (see FCA calendar for dates); community clean-up days; community park, playground clean-up; local and state park clean-up; clearing hiking trails; beach clean-up, etc.
- FBC's 'Foster Closet' (sorting and organizing donated goods; must be trained first - contact church office)
- FBC's Pray then Play sports program (pre-approval required: concessions; assistant coach; line judge; referee)
- FCA Sports program: (pre-approval required: concessions/gate set-up; tournament set-up; manager/assistant coach; line judge; referee)
- FCA Summer Day Camp (Oasis)* or other Day/Week Camps sponsored by non-profit organizations (limited hours; see
- Festivals – FCA Fall Festival; work at other festivals / county fairs (based on booth sponsor; must be pre-approved)
- Fire Station – help with station clean-up / wash fire trucks / assigned tasks
- Food Drives; Food Bank / Pantry restocking and distribution
- Homeless Shelter / Ministry (example: GRACE Marketplace in Gainesville)
- Hospital (volunteer; intern)
- Library
- Military / Troop Support
- Mission Trips / Humanitarian Aid trips *
- Nursing Home Ministry
- Pregnancy Care Centers (example: Sira in Gainesville; pre-approval required)
- Science Lab Assistant (must be approved by science teacher and Student Services Director)
- Service Projects through non-profit, charitable organizations like Salvation Army, Goodwill, Red Cross, Special Olympics
- Soup Kitchen
- Summer Camp work
- Thanksgiving: preparation of baskets or meals served (when done with a church, community, or civic organization)
- Thrift Stores (non-profit)

* A special note about mission trips, summer camps, and similar service opportunities at home or abroad: only time spent in direct service or contact is categorized as service hours. Hours spent traveling, eating, in group devotions or leadership sessions are not considered service hours.

THIS LIST IS NOT ALL-INCLUSIVE. If you wish to participate in any project that is not listed above, or if you have a question about what qualifies as volunteer community service, you must contact Mrs. Stone for approval.