

Berean Academy Community Service Guidelines



***Jesus of Nazareth.... went about doing good...,
for God was with Him. Acts 10:38***

The Berean Academy Community Service Program aims well beyond the need to “accumulate hours” for scholarships to the example of Christ himself. Are we surprised that he, the Master Teacher, the *Logos*, the One who became like us, “went about doing good?”

In light of Christ’s example, Berean Academy hopes to maximize the potential of our Community Service Program by providing the following Guidelines. This is a dual track program, qualifying students for Bright Futures Berean and Community Service Honor Cord.

General Possibilities:

- People groups:
 - Children and Youth
 - Senior citizens
 - Veterans
 - Victims of disaster
 - Terminally ill
 - Disabled
- Projects:
 - Developmentally or physically challenged individuals
 - Improving the quality of life
 - Creating and preserving a healthy and safe environment
 - Historical preservation
 - Encouraging arts, culture and education

Berean Guidance Handbook. Berean Guidance Office will be providing a handbook with contact information on pre-approved, recommended possibilities in the Tampa area.

Benefits of Community Service Involvement.

- Development of a servant life-style as a Christian that blesses others.
- Eligibility for Florida Bright Futures Academic Scholar award.
- Eligibility for Berean Community Service Honor Cord at graduation.
- Enhancement of college application portfolio.
- Enhancement of scholarship application portfolio.
- Enhancement of the reputation of Berean Academy in the community.

Examples of Approved Community Service:

- Church (off-site) Youth Group disaster relief trips
- Para-church Teen Advisors
- Government Veteran’s Chaplaincy
- Community Organization MOSI
- Some for-profit organizations Eldercare residences.

Berean Community Service Program Guidelines.

- Only students who meet the 20 hour requirement for each year that they are enrolled at Berean will be entitled to wear the White Berean Community Service Honor Cord at graduation as of the 2007-2008 school year. Hours performed for Berean Honor Cord requirement may count for Bright Futures/Florida Academic Scholar (3.5 GPA) and vice versa.
- Only the 75 “documented” hours Community Service hours performed according to Berean Community Service will be “verified” and submitted by the Guidance Counselor for Florida Bright Futures/Florida Academic Scholars (3.5 GPA) award application requirement. All 75 hours may be done in the same year to qualify. Hours performed for Bright Futures requirement may count for Berean Honor Cord and vice versa.
- Only service given through non-profit community service organization, church, government agencies, para-church, or not-for-profit community organizations will be “verified” as “documented.” (This usually excludes individuals and for-profit businesses.)
- Only hours performed under adult supervision will be verified for Bright Futures application. (This excludes parents or other family members as supervisors, unless the parent is supervising a group.)
- Only hours worked for *gratis* (without pay) will be verified.
- Only hours performed outside school hours will be verified, unless authorization from the Guidance Counselor.
- Only CS hours performed that has a “whole person” focus will be verified. As you find these opportunities, please check with the Guidance Counselor for approval just to be sure. Your opportunity may be the kind that could be added to the list being prepared for future reference. Look for CS opportunities that touch the social, emotional, recreational, educational (including art, music, or drama) or physical component will be verified. Students are encouraged to participate in as much church-specific and para-church specific ministry as possible over and above your community service, but there must be a social, emotional or physical component to be verifiable as community service. Ex: A student who sits with a widow in an elder care facility is meeting an emotional need. We would encourage you to go beyond that and ask to read the Bible and pray with her, even though it is the emotional support you are giving that qualifies your service to be verified. A VBS held in a neighborhood *off* the church premises which offers a recreational or educational (arts and crafts) component will be verified. A missions trip that includes evangelism and a building project is verifiable, but please check with the GC about how to count the hours.
- Only CS hours within the “Berean Community Service year” from the first day of the fourth quarter day of one year to the first day of the fourth quarter of the next school year will be counted towards the required 20 hours for each year of enrollment for eligibility for wearing the Berean Community Service Honor Cord at graduation. (See first bullet above).
- Only CS hours documented on the proper form, and turned into the Guidance Office by the first day of the fourth quarter day will be guaranteed to be processed by the Florida state deadline, which is anytime before graduation. This school deadline is critical to insure that all Berean's applications for Bright Futures/Florida Academic Scholarships (3.5 GPA), are completed on time. The 75 CS hours performed within four years for eligibility for Bright Futures can only be finally verified and reported by your high school. **According to Bright Futures rules, failure to report this information on the Bright Futures application before Graduation will result in permanent forfeiture of Bright Futures financial aid.**

- Only hours performed outside of church, para-church or school that do not directly benefit the members of the ministry or group itself will be verified by Berean for Bright Futures/Florida Scholar award applications and Berean Honor Cord privileges, though CS may be performed in cooperation with church, school, or para-church organizations. The exception is for services that are performed for the community on the premises of a church, para-church or school.
Ex: A work day for a pregnancy care center would count, as would a Christmas party for disabled veterans at the church. Childcare in the church nursery or church work day, or school workday (for Berean) would not count, nor would childcare for faculty members' children on an in-service day.
- Only hours rated by the supervisor as A (Exceeds expectations) or B (Acceptable) will be verified. Those hours reported as a C (Below expectations.) will not be verified.
- Only the hours reported on the Community Service Record with an acceptable 200 word portfolio-quality essay each year on insights gained from the CS experience, submitted on time with the CS Record will be verified for Honor cord and Bright Futures.

Berean Guidance Counselor is available to answer questions Berean Community Service and how it relates to Berean Honor Cord privileges, Florida Bright Futures/Florida Academic Scholar award, and applications for college and scholarships.

BEREAN ACADEMY

COMMUNITY SERVICE Consent & Release/



Student Name: _____ Class of 2 _____
Current Year _____ Total Hours _____

This record must be printed legibly in ink and turned into the Guidance Counselor on or before the first day of finals of the fourth quarter.

Section A. Parental Consent:

RELEASE FROM LIABILITY: The undersigned, hereby grants (Name of student) _____ permission to participate in the Berean Academy Community Service Program. By the signature below, I release and hold harmless the above named school and individual sponsors, including teachers and administrators (including Headmaster, Principals, Guidance Counselor, and Board of Directors) from all liability for mishap or injury to the student named herein from the time of departure in route to their place of service to the time of return. Further, I have read and understand the Program Guidelines as stated on the reverse side of this form.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____
Date: _____

~~Please be sure to have the reverse side completed.~~

Section B. To be completed by the supervising agency/organization. (Please use separate form for each organization served.)

Please
Print: _____
Non-profit Organization receiving service:
_____ address:
Organization _____ telephone number:
_____ Contact person:
_____ Date(s) work was performed:
_____ Services performed _____

Quality of service performed: ___ Outstanding ___ Acceptable ___ Below Expectations

*Berean Academy would appreciate a comment about the quality of service performed.
Thank you!*

Signature of supervisor/contact person: _____ Date: _____

Section C. Student Affirmation

I affirm by my signature below that I have completed the community service hours recorded on this record without pay. I also affirm that I have read and understand the Berean Community Service Guidelines as stated on the reverse of this form. **Attached is a typed 200 word essay on what I learned serving others this year.**

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____