

Robert Morgan Educational Center Community Service

Community service projects must address a real need or problem found within the school or community. Students must be given the opportunity to select a community service project that reflects both the needs of the community and their personal interests and skills. In addition, quality community service projects are well-planned, organized, and require an *on-going voluntary commitment* on behalf of students to their community, resulting in personal growth opportunities for students.

The following criteria should be considered when a student selects a community service project:

- The project addresses a real community need or problem.
- The project must be conducted with a non-profit organization (i.e. tax-exempt, non-for-profit organization).
- The project provides the student with the opportunity to provide meaningful and vital community service.
- The project reflects the student's interests, talents, and abilities.
- The project provides the student with the opportunity to grow personally and academically
- The project helps students connect classroom experiences to their service to the community.

You should think about the following questions before selecting a community service project:

- What need or problem exists in the community that interests you?
- What project can you develop in order to work on this need or problem?
- Will your project provide an important service?
- Does the project match your interests, talents, and abilities?
- Are there any special qualifications you need in order to work on the project?
- Will you be able to spend the necessary time on the project?
- What planning steps are needed before beginning the project?
- Who needs to be contacted before the project begins?

The organizations and agencies listed below typically welcome volunteers:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Chambers of Commerce | • Hospitals |
| • Charities | • Libraries |
| • City governments | • Museums |
| • Civic organizations | • Parks |
| • Convalescent homes | • Recreation centers |
| • County agencies | • Religious organizations |
| • Cultural centers | • Service organizations |
| • Day care centers | • United Way agencies |
| • Elementary or middle schools | • Zoos |
| • Hospices | |

Additionally, you are strongly encouraged to involve your parents/guardians in the process of selecting your project. While this is your project, their support is also necessary.

Required Forms:

You are required to complete the **Project Proposal**, **Project Summary Report**, and **Activity Log** to receive credit for the community service project. You are advised to keep a copy of your community service packet along with any necessary documentation before you submit a copy to the school.

If you are also working to meet the requirements for **Florida Bright Futures Scholarship** program the **Superintendent's Diploma of Distinction**, you must complete the Hours Completed section of the **Activity Log** form. **It should be noted that the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship's Florida Academic Scholars Award requires 100 hours of community service, the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship's Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS) requires 75 hours of community service, and the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship's Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars requires 30 hours of community service.**

School-Site Service Projects

School-site service is an excellent way of meeting the requirement for community service while also helping meet the special needs of a school. If you choose to complete a school-site project, you should commit to providing on-going support and assistance to the school.

Examples of School-Site Projects include:

- Student plans, coordinates, and monitors a school-wide letter writing campaign in support of an issue of local importance.
- Student tutoring other students in reading or math for a semester.
- Student serves as a Community Service aide to an appropriate teacher or counselor and assists with the efforts to implement and monitor community service experiences.

Group Community Service Projects

Group community service projects provide excellent opportunities for you to complete your community service requirement while also helping meet the special needs of an individual neighborhood or community. Group community service projects provide excellent service opportunities for organized student groups such as service clubs, honor societies, and athletic teams. Membership in a service club or organization does not in itself meet your community service responsibilities. However, you can work with others in the organization on community service projects in order to meet your responsibility.

Examples of Group Community Service Projects include:

- Students develop an Adopt-A-Park program that includes organizing and monitoring regular work details and beautification.
- Students work regularly at a senior citizens' center assisting with feeding and visitations.
- Students work regularly at a children's home and assist with childcare or schoolwork (e.g., reading stories or helping with homework).

Individual Community Service Projects

Individual community service projects allow you to complete the service requirement while addressing a community need which interests you. When working on an individual project, you should be committed to providing on-going assistance to the community.

Examples of Individual Community Service Projects include:

- Student hosts story hours for younger children at a community library or at a nearby elementary school.
- Student reads to or records for the blind.
- Student serves as a volunteer at a museum or cultural center.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT PROPOSAL

Student's Name: _____ **I.D. #** _____

School: Robert Morgan Educational Center _____

Grade Level: _____ **Title of Project:** _____

Project Starting Date: _____

Directions:

1. Complete the Proposal form typed and sign it. Print clearly or type. Attach additional page(s), as needed.
2. Have the Proposal form signed by a parent or guardian.
3. Submit the Proposal for approval and signature. (Seniors submit the form for approval to their government or economics teacher. All other students submit the form to the appropriate counselor or the principal's designee.)

Project Description - What is your project? Be specific about what you will do.

Need - Why is this project needed? For whom will it be valuable?

Final Results - What do you hope to accomplish as result of your work?

I have reviewed my son/daughter's Community Service Project Proposal and understand that a community service project must be completed in order to meet the graduation requirements for Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____

Student's Signature: _____

Signature of approving Teacher, Counselor, or Principal's designee: _____

PROJECT SUMMARY REPORT

Student's Name: _____ I.D. # _____

School: Robert Morgan Educational Center _____

Current Grade Level: _____ Title of Project: _____

Grade Level Project Completed: 9th 10th 11th 12th Project Completion Date: _____

Directions:

- Complete the Project Summary Report in ink and sign it. Print clearly or type.
- Complete all parts of the required essay as outlined below on your own paper.
- Attach the essay to the Project Summary Report form. (It is strongly suggested that a duplicated copy be made of the essay.)
- Have the completed Summary Report reviewed and signed by a parent/guardian.
- Submit the Summary Report and attached essay for final approval and signature. (Seniors submit the Summary Report for approval to their government or economics teacher. All other students submit the Summary Report to the appropriate counselor or the principal's designee.)

Required Essay: Summarize your community service experience in essay form. Address each of the following in your essay.

- Briefly describe your project and the main activities of your project. Describe changes you made from your original proposal.
- Briefly outline the steps you took to plan, implement, and complete the project. Indicate how much time you spent in completing all aspects of this project.
- Describe the problems that occurred during the project. Explain how these problems were handled.
- Describe the impact you believe your project had on the community or on the people who received your service.
- Describe what you learned about your community as you worked on your project. Describe what you learned about yourself and the importance of giving something back to others.

I have reviewed my son/daughter's Project Summary Report and understand that a community service project must be completed in order to meet the graduation requirements for Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____

Student's Signature: _____

Signature of approving Teacher, Counselor, or Principal's designee: _____

