



Take Stock in Children of Citrus County is a program sponsored by the Citrus County Sheriff's Office

Your Child May Be Eligible for a College Scholarship

Your child may be eligible for a wonderful opportunity..... A **Take Stock in Children college scholarship!**

Take Stock in Children (www.takestockinchildren.org) is a state-wide, school-based mentoring program that assists in creating a brighter future for deserving youth from economically disadvantaged families by providing college and vocational scholarships, volunteer mentors, support staff, early intervention and long-term support.

Our mission is to provide deserving qualified children in our community with scholarships to college and guidance from caring mentors. Students apply in middle school and remain in the program until they graduate from high school. Upon graduation, students who complete the program will receive a Florida Prepaid 2 year tuition-free scholarship (2 years of college) through the Florida Prepaid College Foundation.

To apply for this scholarship, students must:

- ✓ Be enrolled in 6th, 7th or 8th grade in a Citrus County Public School
- ✓ Have good grades
- ✓ Regularly attend school
- ✓ Be drug, alcohol and crime-free
- ✓ Meet the federal income eligibility guidelines
- ✓ Qualify for free or reduced lunch
- ✓ Get a reference form completed by a teacher or Guidance Counselor

Each student who participates in the program is provided with guidance from a trained and background checked mentor who meets with the student once a week in their school and provides support, academic assistance and a "friend" to whom they can relate.

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

Effective from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	ANNUALLY	MONTHLY	TWICE PER MONTH	EVERY TWO WEEKS	WEEKLY
1	21,775	1,815	908	838	419
2	29,471	2,456	1,228	1,134	567
3	37,167	3,098	1,549	1,430	715
4	44,863	3,739	1,870	1,726	863
5	52,559	4,380	2,190	2,022	1,011
6	60,255	5,022	2,511	2,318	1,159
7	67,951	5,663	2,832	2,614	1,307
8	75,647	6,304	3,152	2,910	1,455
For each additional family member.	7,696	642	321	296	148

Reminder: Total income *before* taxes, social security, health benefits, union dues, or other deductions must be reported.

Income Guidelines provided by USDA

Applications are available through your child's Guidance Office, by visiting our website at www.takestockcitrus.org or by contacting Pat Lancaster, Program Coordinator at 344-0855 or 422-2348

FALL APPLICATION DEADLINE: October 30, 2015



A program sponsored by the Citrus County Sheriff's Office

TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN SCHOLARSHIP and MENTORING PROGRAM

2015-2016 APPLICATION

The Take Stock in Children program provides college scholarships and mentors to Citrus County's deserving low-income youth. Scholarship recipients and their parent/guardian sign a performance contract pledging that the student will stay in school, remain drug, alcohol and crime free and out of trouble and that the parent/guardian agrees to support and encourage the student to achieve their full potential.

Upon successful completion of the program, the students receive a 2-year scholarship purchased through the Florida Prepaid College Foundation's Project STARS. Take Stock in Children serves students throughout the state of Florida.

Eligibility requirements include:

- ✓ Student is enrolled in 6th, 7th or 8th grade in a Citrus County Public School
- ✓ Student has a GPA of 2.5 or better
- ✓ Household must meet federal income eligibility criteria as outlined on page 3 of this application
- ✓ Qualify for free or reduced lunch

Additional eligibility criteria is listed on page 2 of this application

DATE APPLICATION IS DUE BACK TO YOUR SCHOOL: OCTOBER 30, 2015

Please call the Take Stock in Children office at 344-0855 if you have any questions about this application.



Eligibility Criteria for Take Stock in Children Program

- ✓ Student is currently in the 6th or 7th or 8th grade in a Citrus County Public School.
- ✓ Student currently has and agrees to maintain above average attendance
- ✓ Student currently has GPA of 2.5 or higher
- ✓ Student and parent / guardian must complete the scholarship application in its entirety and must attach all required documentation
- ✓ Household meets income eligibility requirements as outlined on **INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES** included on page 3 of this application
- ✓ Qualifies for free or reduced lunch status
- ✓ Student currently has and agrees to maintain a drug, alcohol and crime free record.
- ✓ Student agrees to an interview with a scholarship selection committee

Upon award, the student must:

- Maintain a GPA of 2.5 or higher
- Continue to exhibit good behavior in school
- Maintain a record of good attendance at school
- Make a commitment to meet with his/her mentor for at least 30 minutes per week
- Pass college level entrance test requirements / FCAT standardized test
- Graduate from a Florida public high school
- Attend a Florida college

In return the student receives:

❖ A 2-year Scholarship

A tuition-only Florida Prepaid account paying up to 60 credit hours (**60 credit hours** at a Florida college) Florida Prepaid Tuition accounts may be used at approved vocational and technical schools.
No books or fees are included in this scholarship.

❖ A Mentor

A mentor is an adult volunteer who will meet with your child weekly at school to assist and encourage him/her to achieve their full potential.



INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

To qualify for this scholarship, your 2014 income must have met the federally approved income eligibility guidelines as outlined below.

Once you have determined your eligibility, you must attach your 2014 Tax Return Form 1040 or 2014 Wage & Income Transcript.

If you had no income in 2014, you must submit a copy of your official 2014 non-filing statement, SSI award letter, welfare benefits award letter, section 508 housing allowance award letter, or other form of federal or state-sanctioned income verification. You may request a Wage & Income Transcript or Verification of Non-Filing from the I.R.S. by calling 1-800-829-1040.

A W-2 is NOT sufficient documentation of income.

A student who is a ward of the state meets the financial eligibility criteria. In this case, a guardianship document would be sufficient proof of financial eligibility.

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	ANNUALLY	MONTHLY	TWICE PER MONTH	EVERY TWO WEEKS	WEEKLY
For each additional family member, add					

Reminder: Total income *before* taxes, social security, health benefits, union dues or other deductions must be reported. Income Guidelines provided by Florida Department of Education



CHECK LIST



Please complete this application thoroughly so that we can determine your eligibility for participation in the Take Stock in Children program.

If any questions are not applicable to your current situation, please note so on the application. If more space is required for information on any items, you may attach additional pages. Do not leave any space incomplete.

- 1. Determine your eligibility for this program by reading the criteria on the **INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES** on page 3 of this application.
- 2. Complete the entire **application**, leaving **NO** question unanswered.
- 3. Attach a copy of your **2014 Tax Return Form 1040 or 2014 Wage & Income Transcript**.
If you had no income in 2014, you must submit a copy of your official 2014 non-filing statement, SSI award letter, section 508 housing allowance award letter, guardianship document or other federal or state sanctioned income verification. You may request a Wage & Income Transcript or Verification of Non-Filing from the I.R.S. by calling 1-800-829-1040.
A W-2 is NOT Sufficient documentation of income.
- 4. Attach a copy of your child's letter from the school district regarding free or reduced lunch eligibility.
- 5. Have a teacher or guidance counselor who knew your student well during the last school year complete the **Reference Form** found on page 14 of this application. The complete reference form must be submitted with the application.
- 6. Attach a copy of your student's **2014/2015 final report card as well as the 2015/2016 1st quarter report card**. **Be sure to include copies of both sides (which includes attendance) of the report card**. If you do not have this, you must request a copy from your student's school.
- 8. **The entire completed application, with financial documentation, completed reference form, 2014 / 2015 final report card and the 1st quarter 2015 / 2016 report card, lunch eligibility letter, attendance report, must be submitted to your School's Guidance Office or you may mail the completed application directly to:**

Take Stock in Children
9360 East Windwood Loop
Inverness, FL 34450

You are responsible for seeing that all supporting documents are submitted and that you meet the eligibility criteria. Take Stock in Children and its affiliate programs reserve the right to process only applications found to be eligible by the guidelines and fully completed as of: **October 30, 2015**



2015-2016 STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION



COMPUTER GENERATE OR PRINT NEATLY THE ENTIRE APPLICATION

SECTION A: STUDENT IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION

Student Name: _____ Gender: _____

School: _____ Grade: _____ Counselor's Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Student ID Number: _____

Address: _____
(street)

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

(city) (state) (zip)

(Parent's e-mail Address)

Student's e-mail address)

Student's Social Security Number: _____

For statistical purposes only, please select the student's ethnic **and** racial group:

- Ethnicity:** Hispanic Non-Hispanic
- Race:** White Black / African American Native Indian Pacific Islander Asian Multiracial

Is the student a US citizen or legal US resident? Yes No

Does the student have a Florida Prepaid College Account? Yes No

Does your child qualify for free or reduced lunch? Yes No

_____Free _____ Reduced _____No, my child does not qualify
(A letter from the School District **MUST** be attached to the application)

How does your child get to and from school? _____

If by bus, how long is his/her ride each day? _____

SECTION B: FAMILY INFORMATION

Father/Guardian: _____ (first, middle, last) _____ (Age) _____ Last Grade Completed in School

Mother/Guardian: _____ (first, middle, last) _____ (Age) _____ Last Grade Completed in School

Applicant lives with:

<input type="checkbox"/> Mother	<input type="checkbox"/> Stepmother	<input type="checkbox"/> Grandmother	<input type="checkbox"/> Guardian
<input type="checkbox"/> Father	<input type="checkbox"/> Stepfather	<input type="checkbox"/> Grandfather	<input type="checkbox"/> Ward of Court
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____			

Number of brothers: _____

Number of sisters: _____

Please list all persons living in the home other than student applicant: (Including grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, brothers & sisters, significant others, mothers, fathers)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Last Grade Completed</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Please list independent siblings living outside the home:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Brother / Sister</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Currently Attending School</u>	<u>Last Grade Completed</u>
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	_____
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	_____
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	_____
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	_____

How long have you lived at your current address? _____

Do you own your own home? Yes No

Do you rent? Yes No

Do you live with someone without paying rent? Yes No

With whom? _____

Please list the following information for the closest relative / friend who does not live in the same residence:

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Address: _____
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

Phone Number(s): _____

SECTION C: EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Employer: _____ Position: _____

Time with Current Employer: _____ Monthly Salary: _____
(Gross Monthly Salary – before taxes & Deductions)

Name: _____

Employer: _____ Position: _____

Time with current employer: _____ Monthly Salary: _____
(Gross Monthly Salary – before taxes & Deductions)

If either parent / guardian are unemployed, please explain the circumstances here (why & how long, etc):

SECTION D: FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Annual Family Income: \$ _____

Are you eligible to receive any social service?

Please check the services you are currently receiving:

- TANF
- Medicaid
- Food Stamps
- Social Security
- Section 508 Housing Allowance
- Citrus Workforce
- Other: please list below

Are you currently receiving cash assistance from your local Workforce Development Office?

- Yes
- No

Have you received cash assistance from the State of Florida since January 2012?

- Yes
- No

Do you or the student/applicant have a savings account, 401 (k), or any other type of investments?

- Yes
- No

Approximate balance: \$ _____

Do you anticipate the need to rely on an education loan or federal aid to pay for your child's education?

- Yes
- No

Please attach your 2014 tax return / Form 1040 or 2014 Wage & Income Transcript. If you had no income in 2014, you must submit a copy of your official 2014 non-filing statement, SSI award letter, welfare benefits award letter, section 508 housing allowance award letter, or other form of federal or state-sanctioned income verification.

Including your jobs, child support payments and interest income, please list your monthly income sources:

\$ _____ from _____

\$ _____ from _____

\$ _____ from _____

\$ _____ from _____

\$ _____ Total Monthly Income

SECTION E: STUDENT INFORMATION (ALL INFORMATION MUST BE COMPLETED BY STUDENT)

PLEASE TYPE or PRINT

What is your favorite subject in school? _____

Why? _____

What is your least favorite subject? _____

Why? _____

When and where do you do your homework? _____

Who helps you with your homework? _____

How often do you turn your homework in on time?

Never

Sometimes

Most of the time

Always

List any extra-curricular activities in which you participate, including clubs and sports: _____

Please tell us about any hobbies or interests that you might like to talk or learn more about:

What chores do you do at home? _____

List any awards you have received in school or other activities: _____

What type of career would you like to have? _____

Why? _____

How do you plan to achieve this career? _____

Who is someone you look up to? _____

Why? _____

Describe your personality. _____

Tell us at least one thing you like about yourself and you are proud of: _____

Upon acceptance into the Take Stock in Children Program, you will be required to meet with a mentor each week during school hours. A mentor is a caring adult volunteer who can become a friend and role model to help guide you through your high school years.

How do you feel about having an adult to speak with each week? _____

What activities would you like to do with your mentor? (ie: homework, career research, games, puzzles, talk about things going on in my life)

Do you already have someone who mentors you? Yes No

STUDENT STATEMENT

In your own words, please tell us about your goals, hopes & dreams for your future. (Attach another sheet if needed).

In your own words, please tell us why you feel that you deserve this scholarship. (Attach another sheet if needed)

Please check any special family situations that may impact your student's educational performance.

Add any other special circumstances that your student faces. In some cases there may be specific scholarships for which your student may be eligible. Feel free to add any additional information in the space provided.

- Single parent
 - Incarcerated parent*
 - Deceased parent
 - Absent parent (no contact or support)
 - Poor relations between biological parents
 - DCF involvement
 - Extended family in home
 - Extended family raising student
 - Student applicant is a teen parent
 - Parent was a teen parent
 - More than two siblings
 - Family has received TANF benefit from the State of Florida / Citrus Workforce within the last year
 - Other: list below
- Bus ride more than 30 minutes to school
 - English not spoken in home
 - Migrant worker
 - Loss of employment within the last year
 - Home is in foreclosure
 - Homeless or living with extended family or friends
 - Serious illness in household
 - Disabled student or family member
 - Student applicant is or has been in foster care
 - Parent(s) did not graduate from high school
-
-

* Children who have a parent who is currently incarcerated may be eligible for additional scholarship funding. If you checked this box, please list the parent's name, the facility where he / she is being held and the dates of incarceration.

- **Your child's grades, attendance, discipline records, copy of free or reduced lunch letter, teacher recommendation & other requested information should be attached to this application form.**

For Official Use Only:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Application reviewed by TSIC staff	<input type="checkbox"/> Income Eligibility confirmed by TSIC staff
_____	_____
Staff Signature	Date



TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN APPLICANT REFERENCE

Student Name / School / Grade

(To be completed by a counselor, advisor or teacher)

Note to Reference: You have been asked to provide information in support of this student for the Take Stock in Children program. Please complete and return to the student’s Guidance Counselor so that it may be returned with the completed application to Take Stock in Children.

This reference form is an integral part of this student’s application. Please take care to complete it thoroughly and include any relevant information that may impact the award of this scholarship. If you have any questions, please contact Take Stock in Children at 344-0855.

The applicant’s achievements reflect his/her ability	<input type="checkbox"/> Extremely well	<input type="checkbox"/> Very well	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderately well	<input type="checkbox"/> Not well
The applicant’s ability to set realistic and attainable goals is	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor
The quality of the applicant’s commitment to school and community is	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor
The applicant is sincerely motivated to succeed scholastically.	<input type="checkbox"/> Extremely	<input type="checkbox"/> Sufficiently	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderately	<input type="checkbox"/> Fairly
The applicant demonstrates good problem-solving skills, follows through, and completes tasks	<input type="checkbox"/> Extremely well	<input type="checkbox"/> Very well	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderately well	<input type="checkbox"/> Not well
The applicant's respect for self and others is	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor

Comments: _____

Reference Signature

Name Printed

Date

Position

School

Phone Number



Statement of Authenticity and Entirety

In submitting this application:

- I certify the information provided is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. All required documentation has been attached.
- I understand that the information contained in this application and the student's scholastic performance may be shared with the Take Stock in Children selection committee, the program staff, my student's mentor and the state office of TSIC for purposes of statistical tracking.
- I authorize my student records to be released in entirety to the Take Stock in Children program.
- I acknowledge that upon acceptance into the Take Stock in Children Program I am authorizing permission for the promotion and publication of my award.

I understand that falsification or omission of information may result in termination of any scholarship granted.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____