

A Program for Everyone

Youth

The program provides an opportunity for youth who have made an error in judgment to accept responsibility and make restitution.

Community

Peer Court involves adults, law enforcement, community organizations, parents schools, volunteers, and youth peers in its process.

You

This is your chance to learn about the justice system, help youth and our community.

The programs and services of Northwest Family Services are available to everyone regardless of ethnicity, nationality, disabilities, religion, gender, sexual orientation or any other legally protected status.

For information on the court or to volunteer contact the Youth Peer Court at:

NW FAMILY SERVICES
6200 SE King Rd
Portland, OR 97222

Phone: 503-358-7783
www.nwfs.org/peercourt

A Program of Northwest Family Services

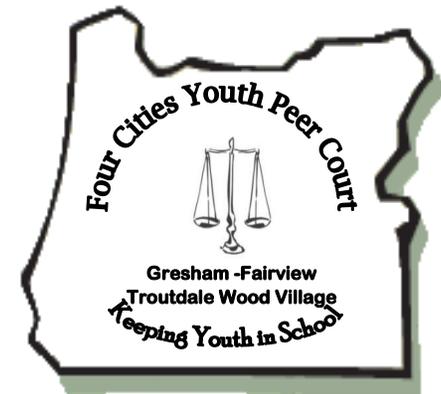


Community Partners and Funders

- Multnomah County Juvenile Services Division
- Multnomah County District Attorney's Office
- Multnomah County Sheriff's Office and Gresham Police Department
- Reynolds, Gresham-Barlow, Centennial, and Corbett School Districts
- City of Gresham, Troutdale, Fairview, Wood Village, and Corbett
- Portland State University Criminal Justice Program
- Oregon Youth Court Association

Four Cities Peer Court

Gresham
Fairview
Troutdale
Wood Village
Corbett



Creating a
Second Chance
for Youth

503-358-7783

MISSION STATEMENT

The Four Cities Peer Court Program is a community partnership for restorative justice that involves, supports, educates and holds youth accountable in their community.



GOALS

- To keep youth in school
- Support drug / alcohol free community.
- Deter high risk behavior and re-offending youth
- Educate youth about the legal system

An Alternative to the Juvenile Justice System

The Four Cities Youth Peer Court is a community based diversion program. The goal of Peer Court is to deter youth from re-offending by delivering quick and fair consequences decided by their peers. The Peer Court provides opportunities for youth to take care of law violations without involvement in the juvenile justice system. In Peer Court the youth;

- Must be under the age of 18
- Have no prior law violation or offenses
- Is required to admit to the violation / plead guilty
- Will appear in court with parent/guardian or pro-social adult
- Agrees to complete the Peer Court sentence
- Will serve as a juror one time in the court
- Participates in one Cost of Crime class

COURT SCHEDULE

**Tuesdays or Thursdays,
4-6pm,
during the academic year.**

Giving a Second Chance to First Time Offenders

Youth Peer Court is a diversion program that is designed to give youth with first-time, low-level law violations a chance to repair harm and show accountability for their actions without involvement in the juvenile justice system. When a youth is cited for a first-time low-level law violation in Fairview, Gresham, Troutdale and Wood Village, the officer will offer the option to enter the Youth Peer Court instead of the juvenile justice system.

The youth must agree to make an admission to the law violation. Youth are required to engage a parent, guardian or other pro-social adult in their pre-court interview and/or Peer Court proceeding. While in Peer Court the youth will have a volunteer student attorney (a peer). Once the circumstances of the case are heard, the jury (students and Peer Court participants) will decide what type of accountability fits the law violation.

The presiding judge is an attorney licensed to practice in Oregon that will maintain order, guide the process and oversee sentencing. Every defendant will participate in a cost crime class and one jury duty session. Further accountability may consist of essays, written apologies, and community service. Youth who fail to comply with Peer Court requirements will be referred back to the juvenile justice system and required to complete additional mandates.