

Four Cities Peer Court

Peer Court acts as a diversion program that is designed to give youth ages 12-17 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.



Lorenzo Ramos

I am 19 years old and graduated from Reynolds High School in 2014 and am currently attending Mount Hood Community College. My plan is to transfer to PSU and get a degree in Business and Marketing, and my dream is to go to law school.

I began volunteering for Peer Court in my sophomore year as a defense attorney. I had the opportunity to develop my communication, interviewing, and public speaking skills. Before Peer Court, I tried to get attention from my peers in a negative way. My GPA was 1.4 when I started and when I reached my senior year I had a 3.0. Peer Court gave me the self-confidence to see what I could accomplish in real life. I also started to care more about my community and becoming a better human being.

Karina Garcia

When I was a senior in high school some friends and I got caught drinking at school and were referred to Peer Court by our school resource officer. Honestly, I thought I wasn't going to graduate, and I hit a breaking point after the incident, but in many ways, I'm glad it all happened.

I was initially really nervous about going to court. For my Peer Court accountability I did community service and wrote an essay outlining the effects of alcohol on the teenage brain that changed the way I thought about things. Even though I failed one class because of the suspension, I became an "A" student and was able to graduate. I changed my group of friends, started studying for tests, thought a lot about which college I was going to go to, and applied for jobs. I started going to afterschool clubs and was asked to help plan a Special Needs dance. I also went to Gordon Russell Middle School to talk to incoming freshmen about my experiences with alcohol and bullying. People really started noticing a change in me and Peer Court has helped me see what I can accomplish if I just set my mind to it.