

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Thurston County Youth Court to Celebrate National Youth Court Month

The Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney, North Thurston School District, Black Hills High School, Thurston County Y.M.C.A., and Thurston County Juvenile Court Probation are sponsors of the fast-growing Thurston County Youth Court Program. This year, youth and adult volunteers in our community have committed more than 900 hours of service to the Thurston County Youth Court Program. Thurston County Youth Court has been in operation since 2001 and currently focuses on truancy prevention but is also equipped to handle school rule violations and certain criminal probation violations. Rick Peters, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney supervising the Thurston County Youth Court is a founder of the Ad-Hoc Washington State Youth Court Association as well as a member of the Executive Committee for the newly formed National Youth Court Association, a non-profit agency created to further youth court legislation and education at the national level.

During September 2006, the Thurston County Youth Court will join 100,000 youth across the nation who volunteer in the more than 1,035 youth courts in 48 states and the District of Columbia in the 4th annual celebration of National Youth Court Month, sponsored by the National Youth Court Center and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U. S. Department of Justice; and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation. National Youth Court Month provides an opportunity to celebrate and showcase the positive effect of Thurston County Youth Court on our youth and community. The Thurston County Youth Court will participate in National Youth Court Month by conducting a tour of local schools throughout the month to recruit new volunteer students. We invite you to help us spread the word about this powerful community program.

There are over 100,000 young people nationwide volunteering their time to serve as jurors, attorneys, clerks, bailiffs, and coordinators to help young people who commit crimes against our community, commit school rule violations, and/or are truant from school straighten out their mistake by giving back to the community through community service and by working toward repairing the harm that was caused by his or her actions. In addition, youth court is unique in that it offers youth and adults from a variety of backgrounds and organizations in the community to work side by side to address and resolve local problems.

Released by EDWARD G. HOLM
Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney
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