



January 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Thank you for supporting your youth in his or her desire to participate as a volunteer for Athens Peer Court! A peer court is a program that diverts youth from a traditional Juvenile Court proceeding to a disposition hearing administered by trained middle and high school students. These youth volunteers determine fair and appropriate dispositions, just like a juvenile court would, but the advocates, judges, jurors and bailiff are all youth from the community. After completing the training your child will be part of this leadership program and be qualified to serve as an advocate, judge, bailiff and juror in disposition hearings in peer court.

The J.W. Fanning Institute for Leadership Development at the University of Georgia works with the Athens Clarke County Juvenile Court and Judge Robin Shearer to administer this program. We held our first training in February 2012 and have held over 600 hearings since 2012. We currently have 45 participants from several local schools and this upcoming training will be the 19<sup>th</sup> time we've offered this training. You can read more about the program at [www.fanning.uga.edu/athenspeercourt/](http://www.fanning.uga.edu/athenspeercourt/).

For your child to participate in this program, we require that you sign the attached consent form. **This form must be returned prior to participation on February 6<sup>th</sup>.** Your student must reside in Clarke County to be an eligible participant.

All training will be held at the J.W. Fanning Institute for Leadership Development, located at 1240 S. Lumpkin St in Athens and are required for participation. The training dates are

- **Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm-8:30pm**
- **Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 9am-3pm**
- **Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 6pm-8:30pm– Family and friends are invited at 7:30 to attend a mock hearing and induction ceremony**

These training dates are cumulative, so the student must participate in all trainings, as we will build on skills throughout the sessions. **Once your child has completed this training, the ongoing commitment is one to two Tuesdays per month for hearings from 5:15 to 7:30 p.m.** All peer court hearings are held on Tuesdays at the courthouse downtown.

Sincerely,

Emily Boness  
Executive Director, Athens Peer Court

**To return this form:**

Mail: ATTN: Emily Boness, 1240 S. Lumpkin St., Athens, GA 30602.  
Fax: 706-542-1744  
Email: boness@fanning.uga.edu



**J.W. Fanning Institute  
for Leadership Development**  
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

**CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE**

I understand that Athens Peer Court training, which takes place on February 6<sup>th</sup>, February 8<sup>th</sup>, and February 10<sup>th</sup>, and other continued training throughout the year, is primarily classroom training. Participants will be asked to listen, speak and write during the experiences. They will work in groups and individually and move around the classroom. In addition, some portion of the trainings is devoted to teambuilding activities. These activities may include moving quickly to complete tasks, throwing or catching soft objects or physically interacting with other participants. During peer court hearings, students represent other students as advocates, determine consequences for behaviors as a juror and share opinions. These proceedings are confidential and must be kept in confidence and not shared with others.

During the trainings and peer court sessions, students have an expectation of professional behavior. Should students not follow the expectations, students may be removed from an activity or session.

I give my full knowledge, consent, and permission for my child to participate in all activities and education sessions related to Athens Peer Court. I understand that it is my responsibility to transport my child to Athens Peer Court activities including training and court. Should a medical situation arrive, I understand that I will be contacted and responsible for my child's treatment. I give permission for my child's name, photograph, picture, portrait, and voice to be used, reproduced, published, exhibited, distributed and transmitted by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia by and on behalf of the University of Georgia in any and all media including but not limited to print, film, internet and other electronic forms. I further certify that I am the parent/legal guardian of the below named child and that we are residents of Clarke County.

**Youth Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Youth Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Youth Birthdate:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Youth School:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Email address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**County Residence:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Preferred Phone Number(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

In case of emergency and I am not available, please contact  
\_\_\_\_\_ by calling \_\_\_\_\_.

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_