

Who can volunteer for Neighborhood Restorative Justice Program?

To volunteer, you must:

- Have lived or worked in Goleta for at least 3 years, or 1 year for currently enrolled students.
- Be able to work well with others to solve problems.
- Panelists must be willing to go to a Saturday training session, where you will learn more about restorative justice and how Neighborhood Restorative Justice Program (NRJP) works, and participate in a weeknight role-play session.
- Facilitators must be willing to go to an additional day and a half training session on a weekend.
- Complete a Live-Scan fingerprinting and criminal record check. You do not qualify if you have a felony on your record or a misdemeanor within the last 5 years.
- Be able to volunteer about 3-6 hours each month in your city for a 2-year period (or 1-year for students). Scheduling is flexible. Conferences take place from 6-9pm on weeknights.

Why volunteer for Neighborhood Restorative Justice Program?

Volunteering for Neighborhood Restorative Justice Program gives you the opportunity to:

- Improve the quality of life in your community.
- Work with others in your community to address crime in your city.
- Help offenders avoid repeating the mistakes that led to the original crime.

Want to join the Neighborhood Restorative Justice Program team of volunteers?

To learn more or to download the application: **Visit:**

http://countyofsb.org/da/cp_NRJP.html

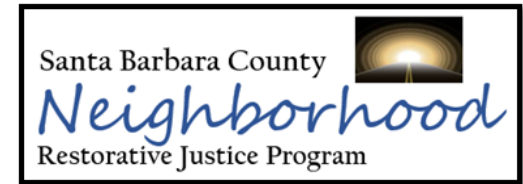
Email: SBDANeighborhoodRJP@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

Call: Joanne Flores, Volunteer Coordinator
805-403-0448

In Partnership with:



Joyce E. Dudley
Santa Barbara County
District Attorney
Neighborhood
Restorative Justice Program
1112 Santa Barbara St.
Santa Barbara, CA Phone:
(805) 568-2300



A Division of the District Attorney



An alternative to Criminal Court that promotes innovative solutions to low-level crime by resolving cases with the help of community volunteers.

What is Neighborhood Restorative Justice Program?

Neighborhood Restorative Justice Program is a restorative justice program that addresses low-level crimes that impact the quality of life in Santa Barbara County. The main goals are to:

- Restore the *victim* by giving him/her choices and a voice in how to make things right.
- Restore the *community* by rebuilding relationships.
- Restore and educate the *offender* by helping him/her to see the impact of what s/he did, accept responsibility, and work to repair the harms.

Neighborhood Restorative Justice Program is an alternative to Criminal Court. No one is forced to go to Neighborhood Restorative Justice Program; it is completely voluntary. Cases involving a direct victim require the victim's consent.

Is Neighborhood Restorative Justice Program like a Criminal Court?

No. The process is simpler, more flexible, and typically faster than the court process. Everything that happens in Neighborhood Restorative Justice Program is private and confidential.

When the offender completes the program, his/her case is closed without a conviction on his/her record. However, offenders are often required to do more in NRJP than if they were convicted in Criminal Court.

Is there a judge or jury?

No. NRJP uses volunteer members of the community as **facilitators** and **panelists**. Offenders have already admitted to the crime, so volunteers do not decide whether offenders are guilty.

- The **facilitators** are independent mediators who are trained to guide the victim, offender, and panelists through the Neighborhood Restorative Justice Program process.
- The **panelists** represent the community's needs and interests, giving a voice to the negative impacts of crime upon the community.
- A member of the DA's staff will be present to supervise the conference process.

Is Neighborhood Restorative Justice Program open to the public?

No. When Neighborhood Restorative Justice Program meets, the only people there during the conference will be:

- A facilitator and 2 or 3 panelists,
- The offender (the person who committed the crime),
- Observers (if pre-approved by the DA's Office),
- The victim and/or a victim advocate, may attend at the victim's discretion,
- A program supervisor (other members of the DA's staff)

Will the Offender take part in the conference, too?

Yes. During the NRJP conference, the offender will have the opportunity to:

- Share his/her story.
- Acknowledge the crime.
- Understand how the crime impacted the victim the community, and him/herself.
- Take responsibility for what s/he did, and participate in the solution.

How does Neighborhood Restorative Justice Program work?

Before the conference, a trained facilitator will lead separate meetings with the panelists, the offender, and the victim, if s/he wants to take part.

During the conference, a facilitator will guide the participants through these restorative steps:

1. Understand how and why the crime happened.
2. Acknowledge how the crime hurt the victim and the community.
3. Decide how to repair the harm done and make things as right as possible for the victim and the community.
4. Agree on a plan that says how things will be made right, and what must be done so the offender does not repeat the crime.

Who started Neighborhood Restorative Justice Program?

The original pilot program was started by the Yolo County District Attorney's office with support from the Davis Police Department and the UC Davis Police Department. Since then, Neighborhood Restorative Justice Program has expanded to the cities of West Sacramento and Woodland in cooperation with the West Sacramento Police Department, Woodland Police Department, Yolo County Sheriff's Office, and the California Highway Patrol.

How is Neighborhood Restorative Justice Program staffed?

All facilitators and panelists are volunteers from our community. Additionally, Neighborhood Restorative Justice Program is staffed by paid employees of the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's office: legal support staff, a victim advocate.