

Peninsula Community
Youth Orchestra



2025-2026 Handbook

Family Portal

<http://jovial.org/pcyo/family>

PCYO Website

pcyo.kids

Visit the Jovial Family Portal for contact information.

Communication

All communication will be sent through the Jovial Family portal, email, or a group text chat. Inform the Classroom Coordinator if you wish to opt out of the group text.

Class Schedule

All classes will meet Mondays and Wednesdays at Swisher Hall in the James Center for the Performing Arts.

These are the preliminary schedule for the classes. Class times may change within the 3:30 to 5:30 window depending on enrollment. The final schedule will be in Jovial.

Beginner, 3:30 - 4:15

Intermediate & Advanced, 4:45 - 5:30

Please arrive early to set up and tune your instrument. Be seated and attentive at your class start time. **Food and drinks are not allowed in the building**, except for water in a covered container. When class ends, please put your chair and music stand away. The building closes at 6pm.

Class Levels

Beginner Students of any age who cannot read music yet.

Intermediate Students of any age who have played and can read music, but do not have the skills listed in the Advanced section.

Advanced Students of any age who have most of these skills:

- Identify the parts of the instrument and bow
- Identify and play all notes on the staff
- Play pizzicato, staccato, and slurred notes
- Play with proper posture and bow motion

Advanced and Intermediate students who want to learn a new instrument may sign up for the beginner class for no additional fee, assuming there's room.

Instruments

The teacher will help you identify your size. Many instruments are available to borrow from the SCO through the Classroom Coordinator.

To get your instrument on the first day of class, you can attend one of our events to get measured by the teacher or a professional. Events will be listed on pcyo.kids/events.

If you are ready to buy your own instrument, we do not have the instrument your student needs, or you would like to rent from elsewhere, we suggest making an appointment with The Violin Shop in Port Angeles. It is often not cost effective for parents to purchase quality instruments for very young kids as they grow out of them so quickly but as the children get older, it can make sense.

Please do not buy online without talking to your teacher as many instruments online are of very low quality.

Supplies

- Your instrument, pencil, and music folder
- Rosin and a cleaning cloth
- Shoulder rest (violin/viola), endpin anchor (cello), or rock stop (bass).
Violins should ideally purchase their own shoulder rest after the first class as these should not really be shared across years for our program as they accumulate oil from the children's skin and neck. We will have a few for you to try out to see which one is best for your child and their instrument and then you can buy from the Violin Shop in Port Angeles or the music store in Port Townsend or elsewhere.

Tuition

Tuition is \$150/term per child, with \$50 of that due at registration. We recognize parents with multiple students can find tuition difficult, so family discounts are available on request. Scholarships are also available. Please email the registrar@sequimcommunityorchestra.org to request a family discount or scholarship. Payment will always and only be done in the [Jovial family portal](#). You may pay via credit card or ACH with your bank account.

There will be one or two books that the students will use throughout the term that they will be allowed to keep. We will charge a small fee (less than \$15) for these books and provide them on the first day of class.

We appreciate your assistance in keeping payment matters only in Jovial or with the registrar via email as it helps keep program costs low. Our registrar is an unpaid volunteer and keeping payment matters to email or Jovial will help ensure volunteer hours are sufficient to handle these tasks and allow other program volunteers like the Classroom Coordinator to not have to coordinate too many tasks.

Fundraising

Tuition payments only offset a part of the program expenses, so we hold bake sale fundraisers at the SCO (adult orchestra) concerts. Dates will be provided in the [Family Portal](#). Please drop off homemade, individually-wrapped baked goods before the concert.

About the Sequim Community Orchestra

The Peninsula Community Youth Orchestra (PCYO) is funded by the Sequim Community Orchestra, which is an educational non-competitive ensemble that performs orchestral music for the community. All program management for the PCYO is done by a volunteer board elected by the SCO at their annual general meeting which occurs in June each year. Parents paying dues are welcome to attend these meetings and contribute. The date will be announced in May. The Classroom Coordinator is currently staffed by a member from the SCO who has children in the program. To keep tuition low and ensure the program does not exclude any students for not being able to pay, the PCYO operates at a deficit every year and is heavily subsidized. Additional funds come from dues paid by the adult program and fundraisers and donations from community members. (The SCO operates budget neutral as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.) The instrument library was originally funded by donations and grants, including from ArtsWA, Beta Nu, and Phi Beta Kappa and we seek grants as needed to expand the instrument library.

The [SCO's mission](#) includes string students in Sequim as a requirement (because of the lack of a school program) and endeavors to support this however we are able. We believe music education program for children lifts up the entire c

Volunteer Opportunities

If you would like to help out, please talk to Sara, or r or speak with the Classroom Coordinator. We also would like to be involved more formally with the p' SCO's general meeting each Spring.



How to Practice

Play your instrument every day. Have fun! Play everything that you did in class. Check your notebook for specific skills or pieces to practice. Always be careful of your posture, bow hold, pressure, speed, and bow location.

If you feel distracted or unhappy, play through the things you enjoy, and then work on the difficult parts when you feel better.

PCYO Fall Calendar

Fall is an 8 week term!

September

16 Tuition due

22 Classes begin

October

13 No class, Indigenous People's Day

November

17 Last day of class, concert

22 SCO Fall concert, drop off bake sale items