



What if the youth gets hurt?

The Coordinator should be notified immediately. If necessary, the youth should seek medical attention.

What if there is a problem?

The Coordinator should be notified. When the youth shows a good faith effort, the Coordinator will assist in solving the problem.

Who will know the youth is in the program?

Involvement in the program is **confidential**. When the youth does a good job for the work site, they may want to ask if they would let it be used as a reference for future employment. When community service is completed or restitution is paid, the Social Worker will be notified by the Coordinator.

Who We Are

About Us

The Youth Justice Team strives to reduce recidivism and increase community protection in Columbia County by holding youth accountable, providing services, and strengthening the family foundation.

Contact Us

Phone: (608)-742-9730

Email: Shania.Simonson@co.columbia.wi.us

Web:

<https://www.co.columbia.wi.us/columbiacounty/default.aspx>

If you would like to participate in the program as a work site, please feel free to contact the Youth Service Coordinator. We can work together to make the Community Service a positive experience for everyone. The program has the ability to be flexible, each site has different requirements and duties.

111 E. Mullet Street

Portage, WI. 53901

P.O. Box 136

Fax: (608)-742-9700



COLUMBIA COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICE AND RESTITUTION PROGRAM

*Division of Children &
Families-Youth Justice*

Restitution & Community Service

What is restitution?

Restitution is the restoring of property or loss to a victim. Normally restitution is court ordered to be paid in dollars or compensated by the offender doing community service work.

The Restitution Program has several purposes:

- Directing the accountability for one's actions
- Responsibility to the victim and community
- Rehabilitation

What if the youth does not have a job?

The law allows youth ages 12 to 13 to gather aluminum for cash, house work, lawn work, shovel snow, work in school lunch programs, deliver newspapers, run errands, baby-sit or caddie on a golf course, if they use golf carts.

Local charities such as St. Vincent's, food pantries, Habitat for Humanity/ Restores, Humane Societies, and churches most always have availability.

The Coordinator can offer job skills training, including job application and interviewing assistance.

Where should restitution be sent?

All money (cash, check, money order) is made out or brought to:

Restitution Program
Attn: Shania Simonson
111 E. Mullet Street
P.O. Box 136
Portage, WI. 53901

A receipt will be issued and a check sent from this office to the victim.

Health and Human Services
Mission: To promote and protect the health and safety of our community.

What happens if Community Service is not completed, or the Restitution is not paid?

A referral to the court for possible sanctions will be made. The judge has the following options:

- Extend the youth's time on supervision
- Place youth on home detention for 20 days
- Assign additional 25 hours of community service
- Suspend driver's license, and/or hunting and fishing privileges



What is Community Service?

It is volunteer work, non-paid, at a local site approved by the Coordinator. It is a way to pay back the community and make amends for past actions.

Who picks the community service work site?

The Coordinator will provide the youth with choices (if applicable) of work sites. The coordinator will set up an initial meeting to establish rules and expectations. If the site is a match, a schedule will be determined.

What will be done on the job?

Child labor laws restrict the variety of tasks that can be done. The age of the youth is the determining factor in what is allowed.