

Peninsula Community
Youth Orchestra



2026-2026 Family Handbook

Port Angeles

Family Portal

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

PCYO Website

pcyo.kids

PCYO Committee

Case Schmidt - SCO President

Randal Wilson - Sequim Classroom Coordinator

Sarah Dunford - PA Classroom Coordinator

Nicolena Hutchins - Fundraising Coordinator

Teacher

Jesse Ahmann (Beginners, Intermediates, and Youth Orchestra)

Visit the Jovial Family Portal for contact information.

Communication

All communication will be sent through the Jovial Family portal or email.

Class Schedule

Beginner: Mondays & Wednesdays 3:30-4:00

First United Methodist Church

Intermediate: Mondays & Wednesdays 4:30-5:15

First United Methodist Church

Youth Orchestra: Fridays: 3:30-4:45

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Please arrive 10 minutes 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 per your teacher's instructions.

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 are not yet ready for youth orchestra. Students are generally expected to stay in the intermediate class 2 years.

Youth Orchestra: By audition. Students are expected to have mastered at least one 2 octave scale on their instrument and one 1 octave scale, generally G and D. Students should also be able to read music in at least G and D in 2/4, 3/4, 6/8, and 4/4.

Intermediate or Youth orchestra students in our classes who want to learn a new instrument may sign up for the beginner class for no additional fee, assuming there's room.

Instruments

Please read through the page online on our website about [instruments](#).

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

Please attend one of the instrument checkout days between 3:30 and 5:30 on September 7 at Swisher or September 9th at First United Methodist Church to borrow an instrument. Students who wish to borrow an instrument must fill out the loan form in the portal and be paid up on tuition. Cellos must agree to a special loan agreement.

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 book
- Rosin and a cleaning cloth (provided)
- Shoulder rest (violin/viola), endpin anchor (cello), or rock stop (bass).
Violins should purchase their own shoulder rest before 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 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 and no student will be denied participation for inability to pay. 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.

Youth Orchestra students will be issued sheet music and should keep it in good condition and return it when through. Students should only use a #2 pencil while using sheet music issued to them.

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 to not be overburdened.

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](#) and this year are Nov. 15, Feb. 14, and May 9th. 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. Everyone except your teacher involved with the program is a volunteer.

To keep tuition low and ensure the program does not exclude any students for not being able to pay, the PCYO often operates at a deficit and is subsidized as needed. 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 and donations as needed to expand the instrument library.

Volunteer Opportunities

If you would like to help out, please talk to Sara, or message the registrar or speak with the Classroom Coordinator. We also welcome those who would like to be involved more formally with the program by attending the 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

Please see the pcyo website for calendar information:

<https://pcyo.kids/calendar>