



Great Oak High School

School Year – 2025-26

Great Oak Peer Leadership Application

Thank you for your interest in Great Oak's Peer Leadership program. Great Oak Peer Leaders is a high school community-building program that began in 2007 with our initial focus welcoming freshmen and supporting them during a most challenging transition. Built on the belief that students can help students succeed, Great Oak Peer Leaders are a dedicated group of individuals leading and mentoring students to achieve their individual potential. We have grown immensely over the past years no longer focusing on only our freshman student body, but rather our entire high school population as well as our local feeder elementary and middle schools. As positive role models, and dedicated "changemakers" (students who want to change their world), Peer Leaders are motivators, leaders, and mentors who guide students to become their personal best. (Leaders must have a minimum cumulative **3.0 GPA** in academics to qualify.)

The Peer Leadership Class

Are you looking for a way to be a part of making a difference in your world? Do you want to impact the lives of others? Do you want to develop your leadership skills to prepare for your future? Are you innovative or creative? Our Peer Leadership course just might be for you. Look at all we have to offer...

- Leadership Skills
- Communication Skills
- Team Building
- Mentoring Training
- Public Speaking Opportunities
- Social Issues Knowledge Understanding
- Understanding of group dynamics
- Accountability
- Time Management Skills
- Innovation and Creativity
- Valued Voice
- Campaign Design
- Community Outreach
- Working with Elementary School Students Building Relationships
- Guiding Middle Schoolers
- Mentoring 9th and 10th Graders
- Cultural Understanding and Celebrations
- Unifying our campus/Unifying our community/Unifying our world
- Being a part of CREATING CHANGE in pursuit of a kinder, more aware world.

Curriculum covered in our course includes leadership, communication, mentoring, goal-setting, presentation skills, organization, teamwork, and empathy. We study various social issues throughout the entire school year including, but not limited to, bullying, relationships, eating disorders, suicide, self-esteem, healthy lifestyles, drug/alcohol awareness, diversity, and mental disorders. Our Peer Leadership Class requires commitment and dedication from every student. We are looking for a diverse group of students from all sorts of backgrounds and experiences who are all committed to the same cause -- making the world a better place. During the week, students will work in one of our committees to accomplish their weekly/monthly goals:

1. SADD: Students Against Destructive Decisions
2. FMP: Freshman Meeting Place
3. 10th-11th outreach
4. Because Nice Matters Elementary Outreach
5. Middle School Outreach
6. Peer Mentors
7. Team INSPIRE
8. Cultural Connections
9. Media Management

Important TENTATIVE Dates

(NOTE: Dates might change as the official school calendar has not been determined.)

The success of Great Oak High School's Peer Leaders Program depends on the quality of our student leaders as well as the quality of the training they receive. As a result, all Peer Leaders MUST be available for the following days:

Leadership Training	August 4th, 2025	GYM
Freshman Orientation	August 8th, 2025	GYM
Freshman Meeting Place (FMP)	Regular visits to 9th grade classrooms during interventions on Friday	9th Grade Classrooms
Elementary/Middle School Visits (2nd period only)	Weekly field trip during intervention and class EVERY Tuesday	

- ❑ **WSB Summer Retreat:** Students will participate in an August teambuilding event prior to school starting.
- ❑ **Orientation Day:** The Big Day...Peer Leaders guide freshmen through an opening assembly, orientation activities, a school tour, and team-building discussions.
- ❑ **Weekly uniform requirement:** Students will wear their Peer Leaders shirts every Monday (AND when we go on our field trips.)
- ❑ **Weekly Elementary/Middle School Visits:** Every Tuesday students in the Outreach class will travel to our local elementary/middle feeder schools for assemblies and lessons pertaining to our Peer Leaders mission of kindness and unity. We will leave immediately after 2nd period and arrive back before 3rd period which means students will be gone during intervention and their 2nd period class only.
- ❑ **Freshman Meeting Place (FMP) Lessons:** All Peer Leaders will be visiting 9th grade classrooms throughout the school year during intervention.
- ❑ **Noontime Events:** All Peer Leaders will support committees who host noontime events on the Senior Lawn.
- ❑ **Community Service Requirement:** Students will participate in community service opportunities organized through Peer Leaders. They will have a minimum requirement of *10 hours per semester*.
- ❑ **Activities and Extracurricular Events: 2025-2026.** Throughout the year, Leaders are expected to attend and assist at events including but not limited to Fall Back to School Night, Spring Showcase, Lunch time activities, Because Nice Matters May Rally, Diversity Showcase, Red Wave Activities, and more.

If you cannot commit to the above requirements, please do not apply. Keep in mind that you will ALWAYS be given notice to ensure you are able to make necessary arrangements.

Please print legibly.

Student Name:
Cell Phone #:
T-Shirt Size: S M L XL XXL XXXL

Commitment

I understand that as a Peer Leader, I will be given a leadership position at Great Oak High School. I realize that my fellow students will look to me as a role model. My actions - both good and bad - will be watched carefully by the students and staff. As a result, I commit to acting as a responsible leader for the entire 2025-2026 school year. This means that **at home, at school, and during after-school activities, I will represent the Peer Leaders program in a positive way. I will be a responsible, compassionate, kind hearted, accepting, and reliable role model at Great Oak High School.** I understand that if I do not follow the Peer Leader policy, I can be removed from events which can result in a lowering of my grade or I can be removed from the program.

I have read and understood the expectations presented in the Peer Leaders Contract. I am aware of the expectations of the course and am completely committed to the cause. I will commit to the Peer Leadership program throughout the entire 2025-2026 school year.

I agree that if I do not follow these expectations or do not choose to act responsibly, in and out of school, I may be terminated from the program. I will do "the right thing, right" even when adults aren't watching.

I am excited to become a Peer Leader at Great Oak High School. I commit to being a positive role model for my classmates and friends.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

As a parent, I understand the expectations of a Great Oak Peer Leader including my child's commitment to the program, as well as his/her responsibilities, both academic and behavioral.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Please respond to the following questions.

1. List and briefly describe 3 attributes/skills that you have that will make you an effective mentor/leader for students at GOHS.
2. What are important issues you feel Peer Leaders need to address throughout the school year? Include possible campaign/lesson ideas to support and encourage positive decision making. Make sure to explain.
3. Have you ever been suspended, assigned Saturday school, or all day OCR during high school? If yes, briefly describe the circumstances that led to the discipline.
4. Please **TYPE** a half to a full page on the following topic: "Why I Would Like to Be a Great Oak Peer Leader?"

After completing the questions and agreeing to the Peer Leaders Expectations, sign and date the contract on Pages 3-4. Then, have your parent/guardian read, sign, and date the contract. Detach pages 1 and 2 and keep for your information. Turn in pages 3-4 and your typed responses to Mrs. Balka in Room 312 by March 7th no later than lunch time. You will then be contacted regarding your interview date. Thank you! If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Balka, Peer Leaders Advisor.

Peer Leaders Contract

As a G.O. Peer Leader, I will commit to all the dates, academic, and behavioral expectations presented in this contract.

- ⇒ Read the Great Oak Peer Leaders Expectations and **initial each** on the line provided.
- ⇒ Sign & date the contract below
- ⇒ Have your parents read, sign & date the contract
- ⇒ **Detach Pages 1 and 2 of this packet and keep for your records**

Expectations for a G.O. Peer Leaders

The success of Great Oak High School's Peer Leaders program depends on the commitment of our student leaders. As a result, all Leaders **MUST** commit to the following:

Commitment (Please initial)

_____ I will maintain a minimum cumulative **3.0 G.P.A.** (Peer Leaders are role models in the school who consistently put forth their greatest efforts. To be a part of the program, you must maintain a 3.0 minimum G.P.A. or you will go on probation risking termination from our program. You have several obligations which will require your periodic absence from class. You will not be allowed to participate in these activities if your grades are low which can lead to a failing grade in our Peer Leaders course.)

_____ I will commit to attending **EVERY FMP (Freshman Meeting Place)** as my students are depending upon me and wear my shirt during lessons only on Friday.

_____ I will commit to attending **EVERY** weekly elementary/middle school visit, wearing my t-shirt as part of my Peer Leader uniform, representing the program. (Outreach class only)

_____ I will commit to actively participating in my committee EVERY day.

_____ I will commit to being an active participant in the Peer Leader class, contributing to my entire class.

Behavioral Requirements (Please initial)

_____ I will not use illegal substances including alcohol, drugs, or tobacco.

_____ I will not post any inappropriate pictures or comments on any social networking sites. I will not be involved with "drama" including bullying, disrespecting, judging, or condemning others online. This includes "liking" posts which do not correlate with the mission of our program.

_____ I understand that while I have a right to express my opinions on political, religious, and other controversial issues, I must always do so in a courteous and respectful manner both in school and on social media.

_____ I will not commit a crime.

_____ I will not receive a referral or be suspended.

_____ I will not be disruptive or disrespectful towards any students or any teachers in my classes. I will greet my teachers upon entrance and say "thank you" when I leave, modeling kindness and respect.

_____ I will be a positive influence in the hallways- my clothing, words and actions will be appropriate.

_____ I will accept all students, even if they are different from me.

_____ I will commit to being a positive mentor and role model.

_____ I am aware I may be terminated from the Peer Leaders program if I am involved in any of the above behaviors or excluded from various programs including Synergy participation.

_____ Peer Leaders: I will be **DRAMA-FREE** in my Peer Leaders class. I will not be a part of talking about my fellow Peer Leaders "behind their backs" whether it be at school or home or through social networking. (This includes "liking" or commenting on posts.) I will commit to building relationships with all of my classmates. If you cannot commit to this, please do **NOT** apply. Our class is a **SAFE** space where we rely upon one another and trust each other.