

COMMUNITY SERVICE WORKSITES

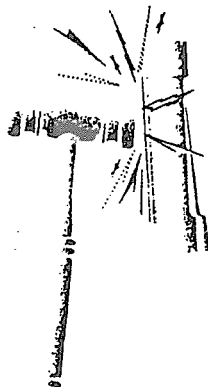
There are a variety of community worksites available. The director has a complete listing to look over and will assist in making a selection. Most agencies offer after school and weekend opportunities for volunteer work.

WORKSITE RULES

1. Set up a schedule with the agency and **BE RESPONSIBLE** for following through with it. Participants are to contact their assigned agency to schedule their work by the Friday following their court appearance.
2. Take paper work to the first meeting—yellow, pink and any other forms received from Teen Court.
3. **Be ON TIME.**
4. Abide by the agency's dress code.
5. If any change is necessary due to illness or emergency, **CALL** the agency so its staff will not be expecting you.
6. Always be courteous; the agency is giving you an important opportunity to get your case(s) dismissed.

FAILURE TO ABIDE BY THE WORKSITE RULES WILL RESULT IN CASE(S) BEING RETURNED TO THE MUNICIPAL COURT, WHERE THE FINE ASSESSED AT THE ORIGINAL HEARING WILL BE DUE AND PAYABLE.

Fort Worth Teen Court



DEFENDANT'S NAME _____

CASE NUMBER _____

OFFENSE _____

CLASS: ☐ CLASS 1 ☐ CLASS 2 ☐ CLASS 3 ☐ CLASS 4

RANGE OF HOURS _____

JURY TERMS _____

YOU ARE TO APPEAR IN FORT WORTH TEEN COURT ON MONDAY, _____ AT 5:30 p.m.

If the defendant is 16 or younger, a parent or guardian **MUST** be present!

If you fail to appear or contact this office by 5:45 p.m. on the above date, your Case(s) will

SUPPORTERS AND CONTRIBUTORS

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CHARTER MEMBER OF TEXAS TEEN COURT ASSOCIATION

PUBLIC SAFETY & COURTS BUILDING

1000 THROCKMORTON
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102
(817) 871-8681

Executive Director, Linda Blair

ELIGIBILITY

Teenagers 13 through 18 years old and others who are currently enrolled in high school, who receive Class C citations from the City of Fort Worth, are eligible to participate in the Teen Court program.

Participation in Teen Court is based on an admission of guilt. Before enrolling, teens 16 and younger must appear before a Municipal Court judge with a parent, guardian, or proof of marriage, and enter a plea. Those 17 years and older may sign nolo contendere or guilty on the ticket and take it to the Teen Court office. The choice of Teen Court is an alternative to paying the fine.

Participation is voluntary. Defendants may choose at any time to pay the fine(s) established for their specific offense(s).

BENEFIT

Successful completion of Teen Court requirements within the required time frame results in dismissal of the case.

TEEN COURT SIGNUP

Signing up for Teen Court must be done through the director, after the defendant has either appeared before a judge (teens 16 and younger) or signed the back of the ticket(s).

Sign-up procedures take approximately 20 to 30 minutes and allow for discussion of each case, docket scheduling and establishing the rules and regulations of the court.

DISCIPLINE GRID

Punishment consists of a specific number of hours in community service and a required number of jury terms. A range of hours for each type of offense is determined from a grid system, established for consistency and based on the nature of each citation. Punishment is assessed for each offense and ranges from no less than eight hours to no more than 64 hours per offense.

Assessment of jury terms is based on the number of terms required for the defendant's highest class of offense.

CLASS 1 Includes: Defective lights No helmet No seat belt Equipment violations Anti-noise violations Following too closely ICV Ordinance	COMMUNITY SERVICE: 8 - 16 hours JURY DUTY: 1 term
CLASS 2 Includes: Wrong side of street Impeding traffic Red light/Stop sign violation No turn signal/improper turn Unsafe lane change Speeding 1-15 MPH over limit Disobey traffic control device One-way street Racing exhibition acceleration	COMMUNITY SERVICE: 16 - 32 hours JURY DUTY: 2 terms
CLASS 3 Includes: Driver's license/Restrictions Speeding 16-24 MPH over limit Speeding-School zone 1-15 MPH over limit Insurance-no accident Littering	COMMUNITY SERVICE: 32-48 hours JURY DUTY: 3 terms
CLASS 4 Includes: Racing-Contest for speed Speeding 25+ MPH over limit Speeding-School zone 16+ MPH over limit Passing school bus Insurance-accident Accident violations All non-traffic violations	COMMUNITY SERVICE: 48-64 hours JURY DUTY: 4 terms

DEFENSE ATTORNEYS

Each defendant is appointed a teen defense attorney. Teens and attorneys meet from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. to discuss the case(s). Occasionally, defense attorneys may wish to call their assigned defendants at home prior to the court date.

DRESS CODE

The courtroom is a formal and very serious place, commanding respect from all who participate in its proceedings. Therefore, the following dress code will be observed by defendants AND jury members:

- No shorts
- No tank tops
- No caps or hats
- No inappropriate T-shirts
- Jeans are allowed if they are neat and clean.

FACT: The first impression made on the jury has an effect on the verdict it reaches!

Teen Court reserves the right to refuse to hear cases from those who fail to abide by the outlined dress code. Furthermore, Teen Court will refuse jury duty to those who fail to abide by the dress code.

COST

Each defendant is assessed a \$10 administrative fee, plus the court cost for each citation. These amounts must be paid to the cashier prior to the teen court hearing.

VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION

TEENS

14-19 year olds serve as attorneys, bailiffs, court clerks and jurors.

ADULTS

Assist with court scheduling, community service, placements, public relations activities and clerical duties

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM
THE TEEN COURT OFFICE.

SUPPORTERS

Youth Court is supported by: Albany County Bar Association; Albany County Bar Foundation; Albany County Department of Probation; Capital District Regional Planning Commission; Colonie Elks Lodge 2192; Colonie Elks Lodge 2192 - Womens Auxiliary; Golub Foundation; Senator Michael J. Hoblock Jr.; In-Kind Court Room, Office Space and Utilities provided by the Town of Colonie Justice Department; Latham Rotary; Law, Youth & Citizenship Program; M.A.D.D. of N.Y.S.; McKinley Griffen Design & Advertising; New York State Bar Association; New York State Division for Youth; New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services; New York State Division of Probation and Corrections; Niagara Mohawk Foundation; North Colonie School District; South Colonie School District; Stewart's Shops; The New York Bar Foundation; Town of Colonie Police Department; Town of Colonie Youth Bureau; U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of New York; and the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

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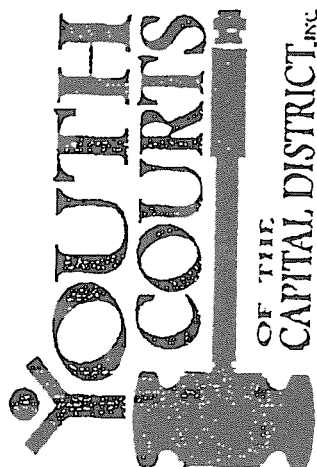
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Introduction to COLONIE YOUTH COURT



WHAT IS YOUTH COURT?

Youth Court is a voluntary alternative to the criminal justice system for young people who have committed a crime or an offense. The goal of Youth Court is to intervene in early anti-social, delinquent, and criminal behavior, and to reduce the incidence and prevent the escalation of such behavior. Youth Court strives to promote feelings of self esteem and a desire for self improvement, and to foster a healthy attitude toward rules and authority. Youth Court also offers a law-related education program for young people who seek to become members of the court.

WHAT HAPPENS IN YOUTH COURT?

A youth, who has admitted guilt to a crime or an offense, appears for a sentencing hearing before a jury of peers. The jury is presented with evidence relevant to sentencing, deliberates, and passes sentence. Sentences typically include community service and counseling, and stress rehabilitative goals.

WHO PARTICIPATES IN YOUTH COURT PROCEEDINGS?

Youth Court proceedings involve an offender, jurors, and members in the roles of judge, prosecutor, defender, clerk/bailiff, and jury foreperson. Each of these individuals is under age eighteen. An adult serves as Coordinator. The offender must complete the sentence imposed by the jury, and in addition, must sit as a juror on at least one, and possibly several, cases of other offenders. The remaining jurors are drawn from any young people who wish to volunteer. Jurors do not take a course of instruction. Rather, they hear and see the evidence, listen to instructions from the judge, retire and deliberate in private, and agree on a sentence.

WHAT TYPES OF CASES ARE HEARD IN YOUTH COURT?

Cases are generally referred by judges, police, and probation departments to the Coordinator, who accepts cases meeting established criteria. Typical cases that may be heard in Youth Court include shoplifting, criminal mischief, larceny, and vandalism.

WHAT DOES THE JURY DECIDE?

The jury may impose a sentence that includes community service, restitution (monetary or in-kind), and attendance at classes or counseling sessions. The jury cannot sentence any youth to a detention facility or jail.

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Members of Youth Court consist of young people who have successfully completed a multi-week law-related education training program. Areas of instruction include an overview of the criminal justice system from arrest through appeal, the organization, jurisdiction, and operation of youth court, the penal law, the consequences of crime, and sentencing issues, including aggravating and mitigating circumstances, rehabilitation as a goal, and the nature and type of evidence that is admissible and probative in sentencing. The training program concludes with mock hearings to prepare members for participation in Youth Court proceedings. Youth Court members will assume the following roles, on a rotating basis:

Judge: Presides over the sentencing hearing, explains the criminal charge to the jury, instructs the jury on what evidence and factors to consider in determining a sentence, and sentences the offender in accordance with the jury's verdict.

Prosecutor: Represents the interests of the people of the community, investigates the circumstances of the offense and background of the offender, presents evidence at the sentencing hearing, and makes a sentencing recommendation to the jury.

Defender: Represents the interests of the offender, investigates the circumstances of the offense and background of the offender, presents evidence at the sentencing hearing, including mitigating evidence, and makes a sentencing recommendation to the jury.

Clerk/Bailiff: Maintains accurate records of court proceedings, ensures smooth operation of court, and administers oaths.

Jury Foreperson: Leads deliberations of the jury, ensures participation of all jurors, and that all appropriate sentencing factors are addressed, mediates disputes among jurors, calls for a vote during deliberations, and announces the jury's verdict.

WHAT BENEFITS ARE OBTAINED AND WHAT RIGHTS ARE WAIVED BY OFFENDERS?

By agreeing to proceed in Youth Court, an offender obtains certain benefits, and waives certain rights that otherwise would attach in traditional criminal justice processing. Benefits include a decision by a jury of peers aimed at assisting the young person in desisting from criminal conduct, and an opportunity to participate positively in the criminal justice system, rather than as an object of that system. Rights waived in Youth Court may include the right to an attorney, to a trial for determination of guilt, and to request a closed proceeding (for young people under age sixteen).

COORDINATOR

Youth Court is supervised, and daily operations are overseen, by a Coordinator. The Coordinator works with offenders, families, jurors, members, law enforcement agencies, and others in the community to ensure that Youth Court is effective in its mission to be constructive, rehabilitative, and educational. An advisory board and a board of directors assist in this mission and in formulating operational procedure and policy.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Colonic Youth Court
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312 Wolf Road
Latham, New York 12110
(518) 782-2638