

Yes! I want to be a Teen Court volunteer!

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone #: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____
School Name: _____
I want to volunteer because: _____
as a: (circle) Clerk Juror Bailiff Attorney
Email address: _____
Parent/Guardian signature: _____

I hereby give my son/daughter permission to participate in Teen Court



"Teen Court gives defendants a chance to keep a clean record, and yet be held accountable for their actions. Teen Court juries hear cases and make decisions that positively affect their teen peers in ways no adult could achieve, because of their unique perspective. Teen Court attorneys learn to think quickly and speak with authority as they prepare and present their cases to Teen juries. The entire process is a positive learning experience for everyone involved."

- Angela J. Cowden,
Circuit Judge, 10th Judicial Circuit

Want more information?

You may contact the Teen Court Program for any questions you may have!

Cathy Truelove, Teen Court Director
Darren Whidden, Teen Court Coordinator
430 S. Commerce Ave.
Basement, Room 5
Highlands County Courthouse
Sebring, FL 33870
(863) 402-6986
teencourt@hcclerk.org



Teen Court of Highlands County

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

Highlands County
Clerk of the Courts
Jerome Kaszubowski
430 S. Commerce Ave
Highlands County Courthouse
Sebring, FL 33870
(863) 402-6986
www.hcclerk.org

Teen Court of Highlands County

What is Teen Court?

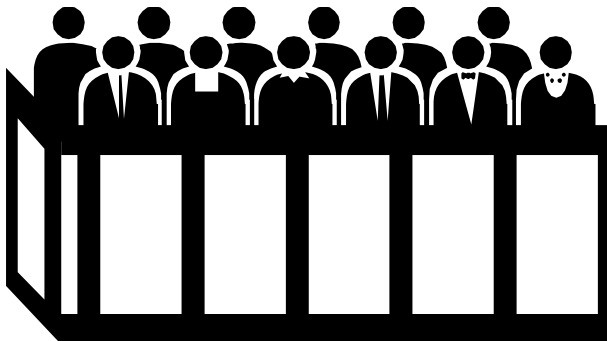
Teen Court is a program run by teens for teens. Teenagers between the ages of 12 and 17 who have committed a crime have their cases heard by a jury of their peers. Teenagers also perform the roles of prosecuting and defense attorneys, bailiff, and the clerk. The Judge is the only adult directly involved in the Court proceedings.

Training:

The Volunteer must be willing to sign an agreement form with Teen Court at which time he/she will receive basic information regarding case presentation skills and courtroom decorum.

Commitment Required:

A minimum of five sessions during the school year. Exceptions are made if school schedule or extracurricular activities conflict with scheduled Teen Court Sessions.



Qualifications:

Volunteer participants must demonstrate an ability to treat each case individually with objectivity and without prejudice. He/She must have the ability to communicate with people and work in a group process.

Participants shall be in grades 6 through 12 and in good academic standing in school. Participants are required to be law abiding citizens and agree to the Philosophy of the Teen Court Program.

The Coordinator has the right to request that a volunteer withdraw from participating in Teen Court if these requirements are not met. All members are responsible to the Coordinator.



Job Functions:

- Members must attend scheduled Teen Court Sessions.
- Teen Court attorneys must interview teen defendants regarding their cases prior to court.
- Attorneys must present consequences to the defendant and his/her parents during the pretrial interview.
- All jury members must participate with each other to determine the punishment for the Teen Court defendant.
- The Teen Court Jury must assess the defendant a fair sentence which will hold the youth responsible for his/her actions and accountable to the community and any victims of the crime.
- All participants of Teen Court must maintain confidentiality of all matters heard during Teen Court sessions.