

*Yes, I would like to volunteer
to participate in the Summit
County Teen Court!*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

E-mail _____

School _____ Grade _____

AREAS OF INTEREST

Attorney _____ Jury _____

Prosecutor _____ Bailiff _____

I understand that to participate I must attend a mandatory training session regarding program overview, case presentation and courtroom conduct. I understand that I am responsible for my behavior during all phases of my participation in Teen Court.

Please detach form and mail to:

William P. Kannel Juvenile Court Center
ATTN: Don Ursetti
650 Dan Street
Akron OH 44310-3989



Turning lives around one child at a time.

A Message From Judge Teodosio

Thank you for your interest in the Juvenile Court's Teen Court. I believe this program will serve as an outstanding diversionary option for youthful offenders while also providing young men and woman in our community with a great opportunity to experience the juvenile justice process.

I would also like to convey one important component of Teen Court that is always at the forefront of the efforts of all participants: while the youthful offender should be held accountable for his or her offense, Teen Court should be an instrument of restorative justice. It is an opportunity for a youth to right a wrong and to hold the offender accountable to the victim and the community. At the same time, it provides our student volunteers with an outstanding introduction to the juvenile justice system.

Your involvement in Teen Court is deeply appreciated and I am confident that you will find the experience a rewarding one.

Linda Tucci Teodosio

Teen Court Advisors

Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio
Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh
Magistrate Rita Rochford
Intake Supervisor Lynda Mullins
Outreach Director Don Ursetti

Summit County
Juvenile Court's

Teen Court



An Informational Pamphlet

Linda Tucci Teodosio
Judge

William P. Kannel Juvenile Court Center
650 Dan Street <> Akron OH 44310-3989
www.co.summit.oh.us/Juvenile Court/index

What is Teen Court?

The Summit County Teen Court is a diversionary program designed to provide the community's youth exposure to the juvenile justice system. Teen volunteers will hear actual cases in Juvenile Court and they will actually participate in the proceedings.

What Happens in Teen Court?

Youthful offenders who have already admitted to an offense appear for a dispositional hearing. A jury of their peers will hear the evidence of their case that is relevant to their potential sanction. After hearing the evidence and arguments from the teen defense attorney and prosecutor, the jury will begin deliberations to determine what penalty will be rendered to the offender. The dispositions may include options such as community service, research projects or paying restitution to the victim of their crime. If the youthful offenders abide by the conditions of their sanctions, the charge(s) against them will be dismissed. If they are unsuccessful, they will be scheduled to appear before the Judge or a Magistrate to face further sanctions. The jury cannot sentence a youth to a detention facility.

Who Participates in Teen Court Proceedings?

Participants will assume the roles of prosecutor, defense attorney, bailiff and jurors. Adults will serve only in an advisory capacity. Teen Court participants volunteer their services.

What Types of Cases are Heard in Teen Court?

Cases are referred to the Teen Court by the Judge and Magistrates. The program coordinators will screen the cases and determine which are suitable for Teen Court. Cases heard by Teen Court will involve first- or second-time misdemeanants who have admitted to committing lower-level, non-violent offenses such as theft, criminal damaging and disorderly conduct. The parents or guardians of the youthful offender must also agree to have their child's dispositional hearing conducted in Teen Court.

Membership Requirements

Every high school student in Summit County is invited and encouraged to participate. Approval must be received by parents and school administrators prior to participation. The permission form can be accessed on the Juvenile Court web site at www.summit.oh.us./juvenilecourt/index and click on "Forms." Volunteers must attend a mandatory training session at the Juvenile Court Center before they can participate in Teen Court. The training sessions will teach participants proper conduct during the hearings and how they can best apply the principles of restorative justice to their dispositions. Teen Court also provides participants the opportunity to accrue service hours.



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Roles of Teen Court Participants

Judge or Magistrate: Presides over the dispositional hearings, explains the offense(s) to the jury, instructs the jury as to what evidence and factors to consider before they begin deliberations and issues the disposition according to the jury's recommendations. These duties will be performed by an actual Judge or Court Magistrate.

Teen Prosecutor: Represents the interests of the people of the community, reviews the circumstances of the offense, presents evidence at the dispositional hearing and offers recommendations to the jury. A volunteer Summit County Assistant Prosecutor will assist in the student's preparation.

Teen Defense Attorney: Represents the interests of the offender, reviews the circumstances of the offense, relates the background of the offender, presents evidence at the dispositional hearing, including mitigating evidence, and makes recommendations to the jury. A volunteer Attorney from the local bar will provide assistance to the student defense attorney.

Teen Court Bailiff: Is responsible for signing in the student Defense Attorney, Prosecutor and Jurors for that night's hearings. The Bailiff leads the jurors to and from the courtroom and calls the Teen Court to order as the Judge or Magistrate enters. Marks and displays evidence to the jurors.