

What is Teen Court?

Teen Court is a voluntary program which assists teenage offenders in assuming responsibility for their behavior through involvement in the judicial process and work in the community.

How Does Teen Court Work?



Teen gets ticket.

Teen appears in Court, pleads Guilty or No Contest, and asks the Judge to be sent to Teen Court for sentencing.



Teen meets with Teen Court coordinator for an initial interview which last approximately 30 minutes. If Teen Court Coordinator approves,



Teen appears in Teen Court:

Your case is prosecuted & defended by Teens trained in legal procedures.



A jury of teens determines:

- 1) # of jury terms,
- 2) # of community service hours
- 3) any other appropriate sentence.



If the teen completes the sentence the charges are **dismissed**. If the Teen does not complete the terms of the sentence, then the teen is sent back to the original court and a fine is imposed.



Who Is Eligible For Teen Court?

Anyone between the ages of 10 and 18 years old who pleads guilty or no contest to a Class C misdemeanor and is currently enrolled full-time in an accredited school program.

An individual may go through Teen Court once every year.

Why Should I Go To Teen Court?

- Your case is dismissed from court.
- Community service replaces your fine.
- You acquire valuable work experience.
- You gain exposure to the judicial system.
- You give back to your community.
- Your peers evaluate your actions.
- Your Insurance rates should not increase.

How Do I Sign Up For Teen Court?

It's as easy as one, two, three to sign up for Teen Court.

Step One: When you and your parent appear before the Judge concerning your ticket, you must ask the Judge if you could be considered for Teen Court, instead of paying a fine.

Step Two: If the Judge grants your request and refers your case to Teen Court, then you and your parent must schedule an interview and meet with the Teen Court Coordinator either by Phone at (940) 716-8575, Through Facebook Pages' Email or our website: www.wcteencourt.org

Step Three: If the Teen Court Coordinator approves, your case will be set for Teen Court.

How Is My Sentence Determined?

A jury of your peers will determine your sentence or punishment, which could entail any of the following:

- 8-62* hours of community service
 - 1-7*Jury duties where you sit as a juror
 - Participation in educational courses
 - Referral to counseling
- *per citation depending on the severity of the offenses

The jury will consider your testimony, the prosecuting and defense attorneys recommendations, and the "Teen Court Discipline Guidelines" to determine the appropriate sentence for your case.

What Happens If I Don't Complete My Sentence?

If you choose to leave the program, your case will be sent back to the referring Judge and you will be required to pay the fine.

If you do not pay the fine, the Judge can suspend your driver's license until you pay the fine, and/or issue an arrest warrant for your arrest.

Is Teen Court Confidential?

Yes. Every participant in Teen Court takes an Oath of Confidentiality and must keep any information they hear in court confidential. The Teen Court Coordinator only discusses your case with you, your parent, the teen attorneys, and the referring Judge.

Is Teen Court Like Real Court?

Yes. Teen Court is a formal and serious place requiring everyone's respect.

Teen Court Dress Code:

Jeans, in good condition, are acceptable as appropriate attire for the courtroom. The following clothing **is not allowed:**

Caps & hats	T-shirts
Tank tops	Shorts
Midribs	Wind pants
Flip-flops	Torn Clothing
Miniskirts (more than 3" above the knee)	

Boys must wear a belt with shirts tucked in

Cell Phones must be off during court.

Teen Court Conduct Code:

No gum	No food
No profanity	No tobacco products
No gang signs	

The Teen Court Coordinator or appointed representative has the final authority regarding inappropriate behavior and/or attire.

The Teen Court Coordinator reserves the right to refuse admittance to the courtroom to anyone (adults included) failing to abide by the expectations as stated above.

Teen Court Volunteers

Junior High and High School students are recruited as volunteers to act as attorneys, bailiffs, clerks, and jurors in Teen Court. Information is available at all school locations.

Local attorneys volunteer as Teen Court Judges.

Teen Court Coordinator

For more information please contact:

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Hours of operation
Monday-Friday
1:00 PM—5:00 PM

Supporters and Contributors

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The Priddy Foundation
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Teen Court is a program administered by



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF WICHITA FALLS

Wichita County Teen Court



A focus project of *Junior League of Wichita Falls*

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