



SAN DIEGO Teen Court, Inc

Reducing juvenile crime by empowering youth to make positive choices

Youth Volunteer APPLICATION

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name (First, Middle Initial, Last) _____ Date of Birth _____

Email Address _____ Gender **M** **F** Age _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Cell _____ Best way to reach you: **CELL** **HOME** **EMAIL**

Parent/Guardian Name _____ Parent/Guardian's Profession _____

School you attend _____ Grade (circle one) **8TH** **9TH** **10TH** **11TH** **12TH**

Do you work? **Y** **N** If so, where? _____ Hours per week _____

ROLES

Please check the role(s) you would like to perform at Teen Court:

- Bailiff** **Clerk** **Defense Attorney** **Juror** **Prosecuting Attorney**
- Youth Committee Board Member** **Other** _____

QUESTIONS

How did you hear about/become interested in San Diego Teen Court? _____

What types of activities are you involved with in school? _____

What activities are you involved with outside of school? (church, community, etc.) _____

What qualities do you have that would make you a good Teen Court volunteer? _____

Would you be interested in joining a Teen Court Club at your school if one existed? **Y** **N** Would you be interested in helping one get started? **Y** **N** If yes, how? _____

What do you hope to gain or learn from by being a Teen Court volunteer? _____

What are your educational or career plans after graduation from high school? _____

Are you considering a career in law or law enforcement? **Y** **N** Have you ever been found guilty of a crime? **Y** **N** If so, what was the charge? *(this information is completely confidential and will not be shared with anyone outside Teen Court staff)* _____

Have you ever had any experience or contact with any law enforcement agency or the court system? **Y** **N** If so, please explain: _____

Have you ever been the victim of a crime? **Y** **N** If so, please explain: _____

AVAILABILITY

Please let us know when you are available to volunteer with Teen Court:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY

When are you not available (i.e. times of year, conflicts with job/sports)? _____

REFERENCES

Please include one educational reference and one community reference. The educational reference may be either a teacher or an administrator. The community reference should be someone over 21 years of age and should not be a relative.

Educational Reference

Name _____ Position _____
 Address _____ Phone _____

Community Reference

Name _____ Position _____
 Address _____ Phone _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT

Name _____ Position _____
 Address _____ Phone _____
 Relationship to You _____

SIGNATURES

I hereby certify that the information I provided in this application is true and correct.

 Signature of Volunteer Date

 Signature of Parent/Guardian Date

Your application will be reviewed by the Program Coordinator. Once the application has been approved, you will be contacted either through your teacher or by Teen Court staff with an invitation to participate in the program.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Teen Court membership is a privilege, not a right. That privilege can be lost if you fail to act in a responsible manner, honor confidentiality or violate the law. As a Teen Court member, you are expected to serve as a role model for your peers at all times, even when you are not at a Teen Court session. You therefore must maintain high standards of conduct and encourage others to do the same. Because of your position, even minor violations of the law may tend to lessen public confidence in the entire Teen Court program. Since Teen Court is designed to promote law-abiding behavior, your behavior must be consistent with that purpose.

Listed are a Teen Court's Rules of Conduct, which you must follow if you wish to participate in the program. If you fail to follow these rules or are suspected of not following the rules, you shall be given an opportunity to explain your actions to a panel of your peers who will determine whether you have failed to uphold the behavioral standards and rules of conduct of the program. You may be subject to disciplinary action by this panel, including suspension or even removal from the Teen Court program.

1. You must maintain the confidentiality of the Teen Court proceedings.
2. You must not engage in illegal conduct.
3. You must not engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.
4. You must not knowingly use perjured or false testimony or statements; you are expected to tell the truth at all times.
5. You must reveal any false statements, testimony or other evidence used or any other fraud perpetrated in any Teen Court proceeding.
6. You must not violate the rules and regulations adopted by your school district.
7. You must participate free of bias or prejudice toward any other person's age, race, gender, religion, national origin, or disability.
8. You must be respectful to the Teen Court volunteers, staff, offenders and their families.
9. You must appear promptly and prepared for all Teen Court trainings sessions and proceedings. If you have to cancel your participation, you must let the Program Coordinator know as soon as is reasonably possible so that a replacement may be found for you.
10. You must perform your role as effectively and competently as possible.
11. You must not engage in undignified or discourteous conduct during the court session.
12. You must not ask any question that is intended to harass or degrade any of the witnesses.
13. You must not let any outside influence, such as other volunteers, parents, fellow students or your own self-interest affect your actions and decisions on how to proceed during a court session.
14. As a defense attorney, unless an offender otherwise directs, you must not reveal a confidence or secret of the offender or use such confidence or secret against the offender during the court session.
15. You must not knowingly fail to disclose or exchange evidence which you are required by the Teen Court training to reveal to opposing counsel.
16. As a prosecuting attorney, you must not communicate with the offender or the offender's family in the case (except during cross-examination).
17. A Teen Court volunteer serving as either defender or prosecutor, must not reveal any information about the case being prepared for court to anyone, including jurors and other participants.
18. You must dress appropriately when participating in a court session.
19. You must notify the Program Coordinator immediately if you are arrested, convicted of a crime or suspended from school.
20. You must report to the Teen Court staff if you feel that another volunteer or participant has failed to follow the Rules of Conduct
21. You must cooperate with the staff, any disciplinary committee or review panel in the investigation of allegations involving a violation of these Rules of Conduct.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

In the event that the Teen Court staff is made aware of a possible violation of the Code of Conduct by one of its youth volunteers, an investigation of the situation will be conducted by program staff. The volunteer suspected of violation will be contacted and asked to explain his/her side of the story. The volunteer will be required to appear before a specially convened Disciplinary Panel comprised of senior youth volunteers who will determine whether a violation has been committed. If the volunteer is found to be in violation, the Disciplinary Panel will be authorized to determine the appropriate consequence(s), including but not limited to: Letter(s) of apology, reflective essay(s), suspension from the program for a determined period of time or program expulsion.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I have read the Code of Conduct and understand the expectations Teen Court has of my behavior and participation in the program. I understand that if I fail to follow the Code of Conduct, an investigation may be conducted and my privilege of participation may be revoked.

Print Name

Date

Volunteer Signature