

Teen Court Leaders Program

The Teen Court Leaders Program is geared towards a more involved and committed group of volunteers that meets *every* Thursday during the school year. Leaders receive intensive leadership training to gain advanced skills, conduct trainings and presentations for others, serve as spokespersons in the community, and take on specific Teen Court roles beyond court.

Teen Court is looking for student volunteers who are ready to step up and take on leadership roles. We work with youth to be advocates for social justice, and Teen Court Leaders are accountable to those youth that are in the local juvenile justice system.

Specifically, Leaders activities include:

- ◆ Gain advanced skills in restorative proceedings
- ◆ Recruit and lead trainings for new volunteers
- ◆ Serve in specific roles of Peer Advocate, Court Aide, Media, or Community Outreach
- ◆ Plan and coordinate activities, fundraisers, and community activism
- ◆ Receive trainings from professionals in all areas of the criminal justice field
- ◆ Gain skills to advocate for youth involved in the justice system and for youth in general
- ◆ Create Teen Court outreach materials like pins, stickers, flyers, and more
- ◆ Attend out of town conferences and field trips
- ◆ Give presentations and do related activities in the community outside of the weekly meetings

We expect from Leaders:

- ◆ Semester or year-long commitment
- ◆ Attend meetings twice a month (2nd, 4th & 5th Thursdays)
- ◆ Be organized to get yourself to the meetings on time
- ◆ Notify Teen Court staff as soon as possible if you cannot make a meeting
- ◆ Keep other teens' information confidential

What do Leaders do?

- ◆ Help run Teen Court
- ◆ Leaders step up and fill the roles of clerk/student judge/attorney, serve as advocates in jury council hearings, conduct peer panels with clients, etc
- ◆ Participate in trainings, hear guest speakers, or assist in planning meetings to make decisions about Teen Court
- ◆ Recruit & give presentations in the community
- ◆ Follow through on any tasks you have signed up to do outside of meeting time

Who can be a Leader?

- ◆ Entering 8-12 grades in the fall
- ◆ Some previous experience with Teen Court is highly recommended and preferred
- ◆ Ability to clearly and respectfully communicate with teens and adults
- ◆ Willingness to listen to others and learn new things
- ◆ Openness to different viewpoints
- ◆ Positive attitude

The benefits of being a Leader:

- ◆ Earn up to 100 hours of community service and trainings
 - ◆ 75 hours of community service (if you include 4 times serving as an attorney)
 - ◆ 25 hours of training (attending CAYC provides additional hours of training)
- ◆ Meet new people, work as a team, and have fun
- ◆ Be a positive voice for youth in our community and help out other teens
- ◆ Training and experience looks good on job, college, and scholarship applications
- ◆ Explore career options in the legal and youth advocacy fields
- ◆ If you are interested in serving as a youth representative at the California Youth Court Summit, you will receive preference over volunteers not in leaders.

How to join the Leaders program:

Fill out an application and turn it in to Teen Court. We are looking for Leaders who support the mission of the Humboldt County Teen Court and the goals of restorative justice. We are also looking for leaders who represent a diversity of ages, schools, interests, genders, races, and leadership experience. **Meetings start in September, every 2nd, 4th & 5th Thursday from 4:15-6:15pm in Eureka. Apply today! Bus passes available to help with transportation!!**



Humboldt County Teen Court

3015 J Street, Eureka, CA 95501 phone: 707-444-0153 email: hcteencourt@bgcredwoods.org

Teen Court Leaders Application

Name _____ Birth date _____

Best way to contact you (Circle) : Call cell Text Cell Call Home E-mail

E-mail Address _____

Name of School _____ Grade _____

1. Why do you want to be a Teen Court Leader? What skills & experience do you want to gain from our program? (leadership/communication/organization/social bonding/crafts/anti-oppression/fundraising, etc.)

2. What skills/knowledge do you have to offer our leaders program and Teen Court as a whole? (leadership/communication/organization/social bonding/crafts/anti-oppression/fundraising, etc.)

3. How do you plan to be committed to Social Justice values such as challenging discrimination and oppression in our communities?

Teen Court Leaders Program Contract

Benefits

- ◆ Earn up to 100 hours of community service/trainings, by attending all events and serving as an attorney 4 times over an entire year

Expectations

- ◆ Commit to participating for either one semester or 1 year (commitment made at bottom)
- ◆ Attend and participate once a week (Thursdays) to the best of my ability
 - Court- 1st & 3rd Thursdays, 4:15-6:15 pm
 - Leaders- 2nd, 4th, & 5th Thursdays, 4:15-6:15 pm
- ◆ I will discuss an illness, emergency, trip or other reason for missing a meeting with Teen Court staff. If I miss more than 2 activities in a row without notifying Teen Court about my reasons for absence, I understand that this will lead to a discussion of my commitment level. If I miss more than 4 activities in a row without communication to Teen Court, it will require further discussion with the Leaders group and I may be asked to leave the Leaders program.
- ◆ Be organized to get myself to the meetings **on time**
- ◆ Notify Teen Court staff as soon as possible if I cannot make a meeting
- ◆ Maintain a high level of confidentiality about other teens' information, especially information discussed about court sessions
- ◆ Take leadership in proceedings by volunteering for the roles of clerk, judge, attorney, & buddy, and check-ins with the client immediately after their court process.
- ◆ Take leadership outside the courtroom by participating in jury councils, peer panels, volunteering for presentations, training new volunteers, recruiting through tabling events, and other activities that represent Teen Court
- ◆ Follow through on any tasks I have signed up to do outside of meeting time
- ◆ Have a positive attitude
- ◆ Respect other Leaders and work as a team
- ◆ Clearly and respectfully communicate with teens and adults
- ◆ Listen to others, learn new things, and be willing to change my opinion
- ◆ Be open to different viewpoints and stand as an ally for all youth, no matter differences in gender, race, religion, income, sexual orientation, nationality or ability
- ◆ Be committed to social justice values, and do my part to challenge discrimination and oppression in our community

Name: _____

Commitment Length: (Circle which applies to you): Semester Year

Signature: _____

Date: _____