

Did You Know?

- There are multiple court locations throughout Maricopa County.
- 9 out of every 10 teens sentenced to teen court will not repeat their offense.
- Each Teen Court can be used as community service work.
- Each case heard at Teen Court saves the county approximately \$400.00 of taxpayer money.

Teen Court is Free



We get to decide what justice is. We assign the consequences. Have fun and help your community. Join us at Teen Court today.

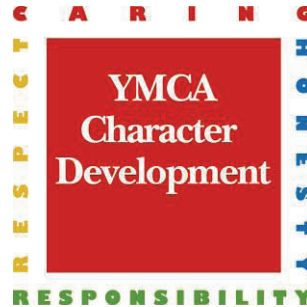
Teen Court Is

Serious
Impartial
Confidential

For More Information

Maricopa County Teen Court
c/o Community Initiatives YMCA
222 E. Olympic Dr.
Phoenix, AZ 85042

Phone: 602-252-2963 ext.115
Fax: 602-212-6180
Email: ehasper@vosymca.org
www.valleymca.org



YMCA Mission

The mission of the YMCA is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all.



YMCA

We build strong kids,
strong families, strong communities.



**Maricopa
County &
YMCA
Teen Court**

**Have you ever witnessed
injustice?**

**Wished someone would
do something about it?**



**You can fix the injustice in
your neighborhood.**

**Join
Teen Court
Today.**

Don't just go to court. Be the court!



You get to participate as a member of the court. Scripts are provided and no memorization is required.

Role-Play as a:

Juror - Listen to the facts of the case, identify why the defendant committed the offense, and assign consequences that will help the defendant repair the harm to the community.

Jury Foreperson - Leads the proceedings/deliberations in a Peer Jury Court. Reads the consequences to the defendant and fills out the consequence form.

Bailiff - Escorts the defendant or jury in and out of the courtroom. Swears in the jury and the defendant.

Case Attorney - Reads the statement of the facts in a Peer Jury Court.

Victim Advocate - Speaks for victims who can't or aren't able to attend court.

Many victims do not wish to appear at court. A victim advocate reads a statement that the victim sends to court, one provided by the court or creates one to provide the victim's point of view.

Prosecutor - Questions the defendant in a Trial Court to bring out the aggravating circumstances.

Defense Attorney - Questions the defendant in a Trial Court to bring out the mitigating circumstances.

Clerk - Announces the judge and the case and swears in the defendant.



What is
Teen Court?

How Can I
Participate?



Teen Court hears real juvenile cases (offenses such as shoplifting, theft, simple assault, truancy, curfew and possession of alcohol/tobacco). The volunteers listen to testimony and deliberate like an adult jury and decide what consequences a defendant should receive.

Consequences include: Community Service, Essays, Educational Classes, Letters of Apology, Research Projects and other Creative Consequences.

Teen Court is part of the Maricopa County Diversion Program. We are a restorative justice program. This means we are not trying to punish the defendant. Instead we: **Instill** a sense of wrong doing on the defendant, **Assign** consequences for actions with positive peer pressure to ensure they won't repeat this offense, **Restore** what was taken from the victim as well as the community.

You get to be a: Juror, Jury Foreperson, Bailiff, Case Attorney, Victim Advocate, Prosecution or Defense Attorney. Participants also get to work with Probation Officers, the YMCA and sometimes even real attorneys and judges.

Volunteers are **NOT** required to attend a training prior to participation. We give a brief orientation before each court to allow first time volunteers the opportunity to learn the procedures. We strongly recommend these trainings for anyone wishing to participate in a scripted role and training is required for anyone wishing to be an attorney. Call the YMCA for dates, times and locations of a training near you!

Why is Teen Court important?

Most teen defendants who appear in Teen Court are good kids who have made a poor choice.

For a defendant to be eligible for Teen Court, it must be a lesser offense, they must confess to the crime and volunteer to be heard by a peer jury. They must also tell the truth.

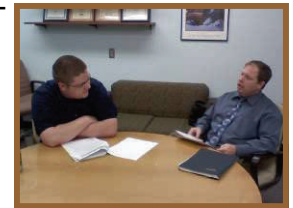
In exchange for their cooperation and the truth they are given another chance not to be adjudicated for the crime.

How Adults Support Teen Court

Judges - Incorporate teen court into their court schedules and sometimes join in the proceedings.


Probation Officers - Are responsible for the juveniles assigned to Teen Court. They oversee all court proceedings and follow up with the defendants to ensure their consequences are completed.

Adult Attorneys - Help our Teen Attorneys prepare their cases.



ASU Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law Provides the facility for our University Lakes Teen Court. Students of the ASU College of Law also volunteer to help teen attorneys prep their cases.

Adult Volunteers - help with the jury orientation. Volunteers have fingerprint identification and criminal background check obtained through the Maricopa County Probation Department.

 **YMCA** - Provides seasonal training sessions and jury orientation for anyone wishing to join teen court. Provides facilities and staff to help administrate Teen Court.