



Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County

616 ADAMS AVENUE MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38105
901/222-0906 and 901-222-0905

Dear Prospective Student Volunteer:

We are extremely delighted to know that you are interested in becoming a Youth Court volunteer. Youth Court is a juvenile delinquency diversion and peer-justice program. It is devoted to restorative justice principles—that is, we work to destroy the damaged relationship between youthful offenders, their victims, families and our community. Youth Court is dedicated to three principles: rehabilitating juvenile nonviolent offenders; holding juveniles accountable for their behavior; and, educating juveniles about citizenship, the legal system, and constructive conflict resolution.

The goal of Youth Court is to use positive peer pressure to ensure that young people *who have committed minor offenses* repair the damage they cause to their victims and to our community and receive the help they need to avoid further confrontation with the justice system.

As Youth Court volunteers, via Zoom or in-person scheduled hearings, you will prosecute, defend and serve as bailiffs and jurors in *sentencing hearings* of juvenile offenders. An adult judge attorney volunteer will supervise the hearings.

Youth Court will not impose custodial (jail) sentences or fines. Sentences will focus on restorative and rehabilitative measures, including: Written or oral apologies, restitution (paying the victim the value of the damage caused to the victim), essays, counseling, drug and alcohol assessments, addiction treatment, curfew, and community service.

Respondents (offenders) that have been referred to Youth Court will appear before a true jury of their peers, via Zoom, and learn that other youth disapprove of their delinquent behavior. Satisfactory compliance with the Youth Court disposition will result in dismissal of the original charges. This is an opportunity for the respondent to have his/her slate wiped clean and avoid establishment of a juvenile criminal record. If the respondent fails to comply with the sentence, he/she will be referred back to the juvenile court for a formal hearing.

As a Youth Court volunteer, you will be credited community service hours, as well as receive ongoing intensive development and team building activities which will cultivate your leadership skills. Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County is continuously working with the Tennessee Bar Association in the development and operation of its Youth Court.

If you are in the 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grade and interested in volunteering to participate in Youth Court, please complete the accompanying application and email it to youthcourt@shelbycountyttn.gov

Pamela James
Youth Court Coordinator
(901) 222-0906 (office)
(901) 275-0904 (mobile)
(901) 222-0801 (Fax)
pamela.james@shelbycountyttn.gov

Marcus Claxton
Judicial Services Coordinator
Office: 901-222-0905
Fax: 901-222-0801
marcus.claxton@shelbycountyttn.gov

Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County
616 Adams Avenue
Memphis, TN 38105
(901) 222-0906 or 901-222-0905

Youth Court Volunteer Application Form

Name _____ Gender _____ Age _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____ Race _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Student Cell Phone: _____

Student Email Address: _____

Parent/ Guardian
Name: _____

Parent/ Guardian Email: _____

Parent/ Guardian Phone _____

What school do you attend? _____ Grade: _____

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

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

Do you work? _____ If so, where? _____

Work phone number _____ Hours per week _____

How did you hear about/become interested in youth court? _____

Referred by: _____

What qualities do you have that would make you a good youth court volunteer? _____

What do you hope to gain from being in youth court? _____

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

Have you ever been found guilty of a crime? _____ Yes _____ No

If so, what charge? _____

Have you ever come in contact with or had any experience with any law enforcement agency of the court system? If so, please explain: _____

Have you ever been the victim of a crime? _____ Yes _____ No

If so, please explain: _____

Youth Court hearings are heard every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Are you available to volunteer for youth court? _____

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 over twenty-one years of age and should not be a relative.

Educational Reference:

Name _____ Position _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Family Friend Reference:

Name _____ Position _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Emergency Contact:

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Relationship to you _____

I hereby affirm that all of the answers provided on my volunteer application are true. I hereby authorize Youth Court to investigate my academic and criminal background to determine my potential as a volunteer and provide the information herein for that purpose.

Signature of Volunteer

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date