

What is Teen Court?

A legally binding alternative to the mainstream justice system offered to child offenders. Teen Court provides the opportunity to make restitution for their offenses through community service, educational classes, and jury service. The court clerk, jury, defense attorney, and prosecuting attorney consists of Teen Court Youth Volunteers. The judge will be a licensed attorney.

Offender Eligibility:

- Between ages 12 and 17
- Allegedly committed a status offense or an act of delinquency equivalent to a misdemeanor if committed by an adult

Volunteer Eligibility:

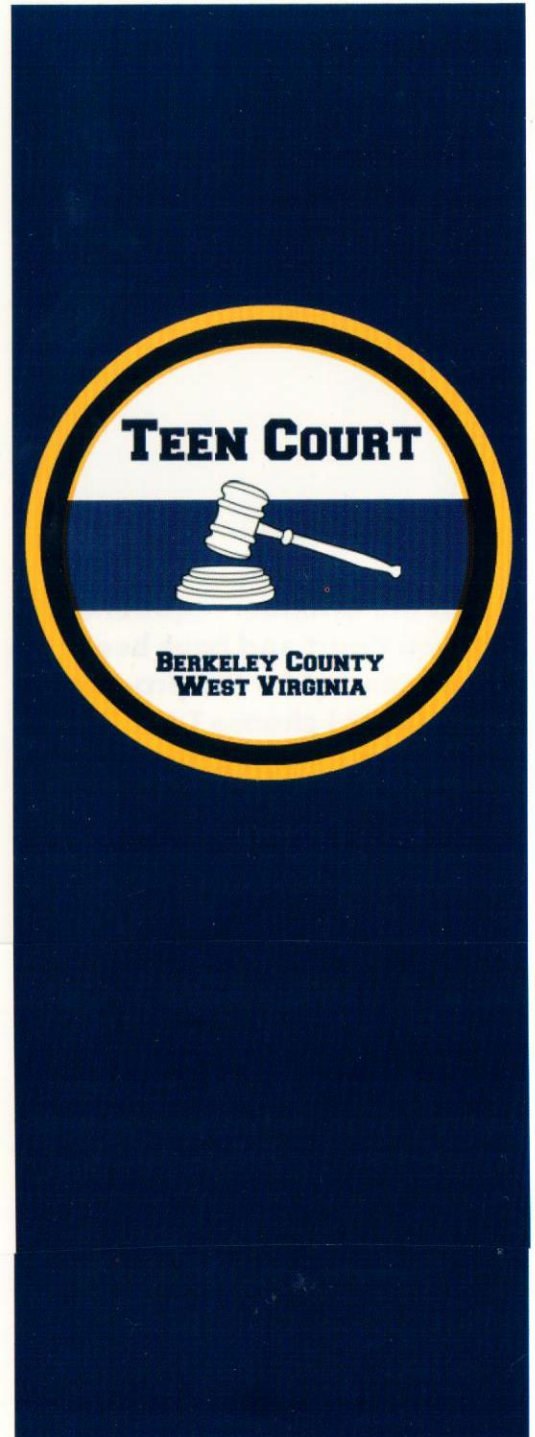
- Between ages 12 and 17
- Be in satisfactory academic standing
- Respect the Oath of Confidentiality
- Demonstrate maturity, respect, and reliability
- Recommended by a school official

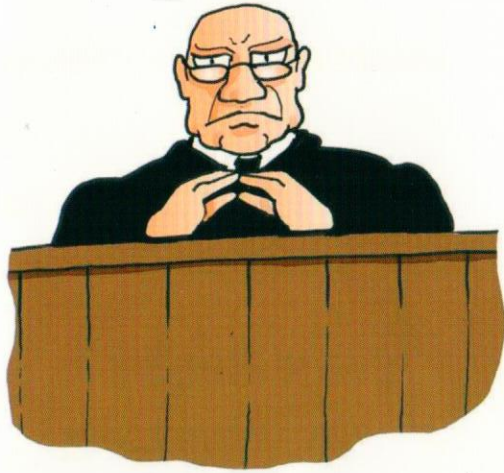
Teen Court Advisory Council

Deborah Barthlow, *Consultant, Children's Home Society of West Virginia*
Kathryn Bradley, *Community Services Manager, WV DHHR Bureau for Children & Families*
Mary Katherine Francisco, *Teen Court Coordinator, Boys & Girls Club of the Eastern Panhandle*
Amber Glennon, *Director of Operations, Boys & Girls Club of the Eastern Panhandle*
John Lehman, *Prosecuting Attorney, Berkeley County*
Hal Van Metre, *Director of Attendance, Berkeley County Public Schools*
Mollie Ravencroft, *Executive Director, Family Resource Network of the Panhandle, Inc.*
Stacie Rohn, *Executive Director, Boys & Girls Club of the Eastern Panhandle*



BC Teen Court
433 Mid Atlantic Pkwy
Martinsburg, WV 25404





I meet the offender requirements for Teen Court and have been recommended for the program. Why should I choose Teen Court over a mainstream judicial experience?

Teen Court allows you to...

- Avoid court fines and criminal record
- Participate in a "hands on" educational opportunity to better understand the legal system
- Build self-esteem in a safe environment
- Interact with influential members of the Berkeley County community; judges, attorneys, and educators
- Meet and work with other teens throughout Berkeley County

Benefits to Volunteering

Interested in criminal justice, human rights, or political science? Teen Court is a great opportunity for you to experience the judicial process. Being a part of the program will polish your public speaking, conflict resolution, and advocacy skills. Your involvement will look great on a college application and/or resume!

"Laws are a dead letter without courts to expound and define their true meaning and operation."

– Alexander Hamilton

How Do I Get Involved?

School administrators, teachers, and guidance counselors have access to referral forms for Teen Court. If you have not been chosen for participation and want to be a Teen Court Youth Volunteer, express your interest to any of the above school officials. You may also contact the Berkeley County Teen Court Coordinator.



Community Gains

- Parent/Guardian involvement with their child
- Reduction of caseloads in the juvenile justice system
- Dramatic reduction in the number of repeat offenders

Community Involvement

Teen offenders must complete community service as a part of their retribution. Teen Court needs local non-profits and businesses willing to allow teens to volunteer in their establishments. Community Volunteerism Applications are available at DHHR or can be emailed for your convenience.