



Pima County Teen Court

Reducing Juvenile Crime and Positively Engaging Youth through

- Restorative Justice
- Law-Related Education
- Positive Peer Influence

Pima County Teen Court (a program of YWCA Southern Arizona)

- Teen Court: What It Is and How It Works
- Funding from GOYFF
- Case Study

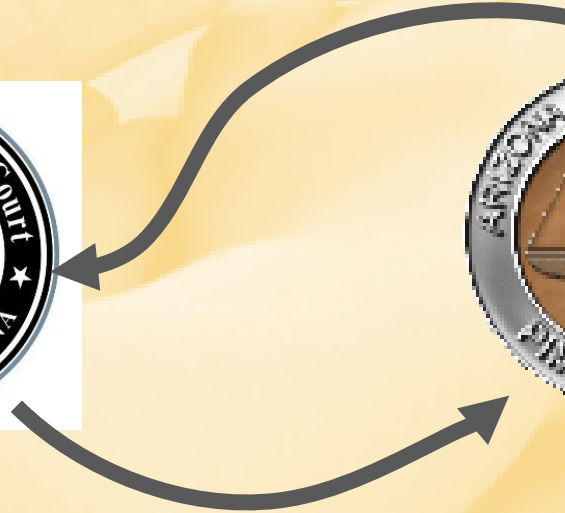


Pima County Teen Court (a program of YWCA Southern Arizona)

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

Southern Arizona



Youth-led Restorative Justice



The unique aspect of Teen Court is that trained youth volunteers serve as attorneys, bailiffs, clerks, and jurors. Positive peer influence and parental involvement drive the program.

Youth-led Restorative Justice



Youth enter Teen Court by participating in a hearing where they:

- account for the behavior that led up to their arrest,
- receive feedback from teens in the community on how to repair the harm they caused, and
- are sentenced by a peer jury to complete a set of constructive consequences that are designed to impart consequences for their crimes, address the harm caused, restore relationships, and increase participants' knowledge and skills.

Day at Court

Front Desk Check In: Each family is assigned an arrival time and will receive a copy of the police report, consent forms, and quizzes on juvenile law.

Wellness Screening: With parental consent, teens are screened for substance use and/or mental health concerns.

Attorney Interview: Teen Defense Attorneys interview their defendant and their adult to learn the full story and prepare the defendant for court.



Day at Court, continued

Hearing: Teen Attorneys (both prosecution and defense) will present the case and the defendant will take the stand. The magistrate will give the parent/caregiver the option to make a statement in court, if they would like. After the hearing, the jury will deliberate and decide on constructive consequences.

Wellness Follow Up: If the Screener needs to follow up with the teen, it will happen immediately following your hearing.

Exit Interview: An adult volunteer works with the family to schedule everything assigned by your jury. Families leave court knowing exactly what you need to do to be compliant with Teen Court.

Wellness Screening–SBIRT Model

- Screening
- Brief Intervention
- Referral to Treatment



Constructive Consequences

Use evidencebased practices and strategies to:

- **Help** the defendant repair the harm they caused
- **Help** the defendant understand why we have the laws we do
- **Help** the defendant to make better choices in the future



SENTENCING OPTIONS

Mandatory Sentence

1. **Teen Court Basic Training**- Teen AND their adult attend together. Discussion on juvenile law, the arrest process, and family communication.
2. **Jury Duty**- 1 or 2 can be assigned
3. **Letter(s) of Apology** - The jury decides who the letters should be written to. Staff reviews letters before they are mailed.

Did YOU Pay For That?? Workshop is **mandatory** for shoplifting and theft arrests. Discussions on why teens steal and the effects on the community.

Homework Help - If minor is having difficulty in any subject, 3 or 5 hours of Homework Help should be assigned. Can be completed at school.

"Keep Your Cool" Workshop- Workshop is **mandatory** for minors who have been arrested for assault, domestic violence or disorderly conduct. An anger management workshop that explores ways to more positively express emotions like anger, resentment, insecurity and depression. Includes discussion and skill building.

Mediation Program - This is a **voluntary** program for the victim. **If the victim refuses to participate, the minor will have completed their obligation.** The victim will be contacted by staff and any follow up appointment will be arranged by Teen Court staff.

Self-Improvement Workshop - This workshop is designed to help youth identify goals, learn how to accomplish them, and explore their future.

Sí Se Puede! Session is **mandatory** for teens not currently in school. Staff works with each teen to designate a path toward graduation.

Substance Abuse Programming- Some components are **mandatory** for minors who were arrested for alcohol, marijuana or other drug offenses.

Wellness Screening FollowUp - Includes Motivational Interview.

Substance Abuse Prevention Workshop Teen AND their adult attend. Discusses issues related to substance abuse and risky behavior.

Wellness Services Parent arranges with personal provider. Proof of completion due at WPA Appointment.

Turn Down the Heat- Workshop is **mandatory** for fireworks and fire-related offenses. Program designed to confront issues relating to fire starting or arson and is conducted by the Tucson Fire Department.

Independent Study - A combination of video and writing/thinking activities are used to explore a topic assigned by the jury. Topics currently include Bullying, Consent, Domestic Violence, Reckless Driving, Racial Awareness,

Journal Writing - This constructive sentence guides teens in expressing their feelings and emotions through writing. Youth are provided a journal. A list of writing prompts will be provided at the Exit Interview. The journal is due at the WPA Appointment.

Family Engagement

- Teens participate with their adult
- Adults attend hearing, Basic Training and WrapUp
- Resource and referral



Youth Facilitators

- Successfully completed Teen Court for their own arrestable behavior
- Train in facilitation skills, employability skills, and workshop curricula
- Facilitate alongside adults
- \$48 gift card!




The Impact of Teen Court (2023)

86% of parents and 83% of teens believe their participation in Teen Court will improve family communication.

84% of parents and 83% of teens improved their knowledge of juvenile law.

93% of parents and 90% of teens believed their participation in Teen Court will help the teen avoid future criminal behavior.

98% of jurors said they worked through their differences in a positive, constructive way.



They saw my kid,
not just a case.

- Parent of a defendent

Public speaking is useful in
all walks of life. Getting
along with all kinds of
people is also useful.

- 4th Year Volunteer

To learn to
think before my
actions

- 1st Year Volunteer

I learned that I
am not a bad kid.

- 16 year old former defendent

Getting Involved with Teen Court

Jury Duty Open to anyone 12 years old up through high school age.

Teen Attorney Training Open to all high school students. Next training is April 2025.



www.pcteencourt.com

Teen Court Bar Association

Professional Development



Volunteer Recognition



Funding

- 100% from grants and donations
- 6-8 different funding sources each year



Funders include: Arizona Superior Court, City of Tucson, Governor's Office of Youth, and Family, HS Lopez Family Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, Pima County, Pima County Attorney, Simpson Foundation, Tucson Osteopathic Foundation

Pre-Arrest vs. Arrest—Any contact with the juvenile justice system is a risk factor for future negative outcomes.

- Youth accused of lower-level misbehavior whose cases are formally processed in juvenile court typically have worse outcomes than similar youth whose cases are handled informally, both in terms of future involvement in the justice system and success in education and employment, Petrosino A., Turpin-Petrosino C., & Guckenburg, S. (2010) and Wilson, H. A., & Hoge, R. D. (2013).
- “52-57% of justice-involved youth continue to offend up to age 25.” (Youth Justice Involvement to Young Adult Offending, National Institute of Justice, 3/10/14).
- Collateral Consequences include “getting or keeping a driver’s license, being allowed to attend regular high school, applying to college and for financial aid, obtaining a job, qualifying for a professional license, living in public house, securing or keeping legal immigration status, being able to serve in the military, qualifying for public benefits, being a foster parent or relative caregiver, and traveling with the U.S. or abroad,” Burrell (2015)

Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission's 2022 Report

- Support programs and services that incorporate trauma-informed approaches.
- Eliminate detention for status and other low-risk offenders to the greatest extent possible in favor of community-based services in order to minimize trauma.
- Support county-wide efforts to implement alternatives to detention for status and low-risk offenders that address the needs of youth and families and prevent future delinquency.

Supporters of Pre-Arrest Model

- Pascua Yaqui Tribe
- Pima County Attorney
- Pima County Dist 5 Supervisor
- Pima County Justice Services



- Pima County Juvenile Court
- Pima Public Library
- Tucson Police Department
- Local small business

The Pima County Teen Court: A Restorative Justice Case Study

- By design, there is no unified approach to running a teen court. As such, each one looks different in some way, shape, or form. The Pima County Teen Court runs a great program with the numbers to prove it.
- I have taken what we do at the Pima County Teen Court, from the trial processes to the sentences we assign, and written a case study on our court
- The goal of this project is to share ideas from our court to others in, and potentially outside, of Arizona.
- Other courts could take two sentences from my case study, or they could re-create the Pima County Teen Court in their community; either way, this case study did its job.

Case Study Asks...

- To use the AJJC name when marketing this. When outreaching, say “Joshua Jaeger, Teen Attorney and AJJC Commissioner” instead of “Joshua Jaeger, Teen Attorney”.
- For your help in outreaching to your area and gathering information on teen courts in your community.
- Are there any connections or resources the AJJC or GOYFF have that could help increase the impact of my project?

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Pima County Teen Court

525 N. Bonita Ave (west of downtown)

520/3322911

teencourt@ywcatucson.org

www.pcteencourt.com

W. Kate Spaulding, Manager

kspaulding@ywcatucson.org









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