

St. Mary's County Teen Court



Youth Volunteer Application Packet

301.475.4200 x1852
301.373.0328 (Cell)
301.475.4000 (Fax)
TeenCourt@stmaryscountymd.gov

St. Mary's
County Teen Court
Department of Aging & Human
Services
PO Box 653
Leonardtown, MD 20650



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ST. MARY'S COUNTY TEEN COURT WELCOME

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with the St. Mary's County Teen Court Program. This packet provides you with the documentation necessary to become a volunteer in this very important and beneficial program for county teens.

As you are likely aware, the St. Mary's County Teen Court is a youth diversion program for first-time misdemeanor offenders, designed to teach responsibility and appropriate decision making while restoring a sense of safety in the community. Based on the philosophy that youthful offenders will not continue to offend when a peer jury decides punishment, it provides an opportunity for first time offenders to avoid the stigma of a formal criminal record by completing sanctions such as community service hours, essays, letters of apology, attending educational programs, and jury duty assignments.

The St. Mary's County Teen Court initiative, which began in fall 2001, offers juveniles aged 11-17 who have committed a misdemeanor crime, such as such as shoplifting, disorderly conduct, destruction of property, or possession of alcohol, the opportunity to appear before a jury of their peers who will determine the appropriate sanctions for their actions. However, to be accepted into the Teen Court Program, the offense must meet the program acceptance criteria, be agreed to by the victim, parent or guardian, and the juvenile must admit involvement (guilty) to the offense. The subsequent disposition (sentencing) hearing features trained volunteer teens that perform the roles of prosecuting and defense attorneys, bailiffs, and jury members. The Judge is the only adult directly involved in the court proceedings. After careful consideration of the facts, the jury deliberates and decides upon a constructive disposition (sentence). When the respondent successfully completes the prescribed disposition within the specified probation period of 90 days, the original charge will be closed with no formal prosecution.

Your decision to become part of this program reflects well on you and your desire to help your fellow teens. The St. Mary's County Teen Court is truly a *real justice* program run by teens for teens. We look forward to you becoming a member of this special program.

Gregory W. Jones, Sr.

Gregory W. Jones, Sr.
Teen Court Coordinator

TEEN COURT APPLICATION CHECKLIST

1. Please include everything on this list in your application packet):

_____ Youth Volunteer Application

_____ Optional Youth Photo Release

_____ Release and Waiver of Liability

2. You can submit completed the completed volunteer application to the St. Mary's County Teen Court Coordinator by one of the following:

1. Attending a scheduled Teen Court Session and delivering the completed packet to the Coordinator.
2. Hand deliver to the Teen Court Office, 1st Floor, Potomac Building, 23115 Leonard Hall Dr, (Governmental Complex), Leonardtown, MD.
3. Mail to:

Mr. Gregory W. Jones, Sr.
Teen Court Coordinator
P.O. Box 653
23150 Leonard Hall Dr.
Leonardtown, MD 20650

Phone: 301.475.4200 x 1852 Fax: 301.475.4000

St. Mary's County Teen Court *Youth Volunteer Application*

Date of Application: _____ Referral Source: _____

Name: _____
(FIRST) (MIDDLE) (LAST)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____ SSN: XXXXXXXXXXXX Gender: Male ___ Female ___

Your E-mail: _____

Parent(s) or Guardian(s) name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone#: Home _____ Cell _____ E-mail: _____

School: _____

Grade: _____ (7 – 12) GPA: _____ Sports Activities: _____

Additional School Activities: _____

List below any previous volunteer experiences: (Feel free to continue on another sheet of paper if necessary)

Name of organization or activity:

Nature of volunteer activity:

How did you hear about Teen Court? _____

Do you have any relatives who live locally that are involved in the legal system? (i.e. law professionals, law enforcement, court system)

Have you ever plead guilty or nolo contendere to, or been found guilty of any offense other than a minor traffic charge? Please explain: _____

Have you ever been a victim of crime? _____ If yes, please explain: _____

What are your plans after graduation from high school? _____

Do you have any hobbies or special interests? _____

Are you currently active in any volunteer activities or extra-curricular activities? _____

For each of the following, please write a 2-3 sentence response addressing each of the following questions:

What do you want to gain from becoming a member of the St Mary's County Teen Court? _____

What is one asset that you feel you would bring to the Teen Court Program? _____

Define in your own words "Positive Peer Influence", and discuss how you are prepared to serve as a role model in the Teen Court program. _____

Teen Court is generally scheduled for the second and fourth Monday evening from approximately 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM. Are you generally available on Monday evenings? Yes____ No____

What position(s) would you like to serve in Teen Court? **ALL Teen Court Volunteers are required to serve as jurors.** Please check all that apply.

Juror Bailiff ~~Court Clerk~~ Defense Attorney Prosecutor

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Contact: _____ Relationship to Applicant _____

Address: _____

Telephone#: (Home) _____ (Cell) _____ (Work) _____

Any medical conditions or allergies that would affect your ability to participate in Teen Court? Yes () No ()
If yes, please explain:

Code of Conduct and Dress Code Acknowledgement

The St. Mary's County Teen Court Code of Conduct and Dress Code are strictly enforced. Please review each of these documents, available on the Teen Court website at www.stmarysmd.com/teencourt, prior to completing your application. By signing this application you are acknowledging that you have reviewed both the Conduct Code and Dress Code, and agree to abide by the terms contained therein.

Oath of Confidentiality

The importance of honoring the confidentiality agreement cannot be overstated. The business of appearing before the Teen Court is a personal matter. All aspects of the Teen Court session are considered CONFIDENTIAL. Failure to respect and honor this agreement will result in serious consequences and dismissal from participation in the program.

I solemnly declare that I will keep confidential and not divulge, either by word or signs, any information or names that come to my knowledge in the course of a Teen Court Session. I will not identify directly or indirectly, either audibly or in writing, any person participating as a respondent in the Teen Court Program.

Volunteer Signature: _____ Date: _____

My child and I have discussed their proposed participation in the St. Mary's County Teen Court Program. I support his/her decision to participate as a Teen Court volunteer. I understand that I will need to provide transportation for my child to and from the Teen Court program. Teen Court is held at the St. Mary's County District Court located in the Carter State Office Building in Leonardtown, and generally ends between 8:00 PM and 8:30 PM.

Volunteer Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name (Please Print) _____

St. Mary's County Teen Court

OPTIONAL YOUTH PHOTO RELEASE

I hereby grant staff members of the St. Mary's County Teen Court Program and authorized press organizations covering Teen Court events permission to take photographs of the minor named below or photographs in which the minor may be involved with others for the purpose of promoting the **St. Mary's County Teen Court Program**.

I _____ certify that I am 18 or older, and am able to contract for the minor in the above regard. I have read the above statement and fully understand its contents.

Name of Minor: _____

Minor's Address: _____

Relationship to Minor: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date: _____

Name (Please Print) _____

Address _____

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN RESOURCES**

Catherine Pratson,
Director of Human Resources



Commissioners of St. Mary's County

James R. Guy, President
Michael R. Alderson, Jr., Commissioner
Eric S. Colvin, Commissioner
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner

Release and Waiver of Liability

Each volunteer must have a signed "Release and Waiver of Liability" on file. This form must be completely filled out and submitted to the appropriate department. Please read carefully. This is a legal document that affects your legal rights.

St. Mary's County Government Department of Aging and Human Services.

This Release and Waiver of Liability made by/on behalf of _____ (the "Volunteer") and _____ (the "Guardian" if the Volunteer is a minor child).

The Volunteer desires to serve as a volunteer for the St. Mary's County Government and engage in activities related to being a volunteer.

The Volunteer (and Guardian, if applicable) does hereby release and forever discharge and hold harmless the Commissioners of St. Mary's County, its departments, boards, commissions, agents, employees and volunteers, from any and all liability, claims, and demands of whatever kind and nature, either in law or equity, whether for bodily injury, personal injury, illness, death, invasion of privacy or property damage, which arise or may hereafter in connection with the Volunteer's activities as a volunteer.

Volunteer (and Guardian, if applicable) also understand that the St. Mary's County Government does not carry, maintain, or provide health, medical, or disability insurance coverage for any volunteer and does not assume any responsibility or obligation to provide financial or other assistance, in the event of injury or illness suffered by Volunteer.

Each volunteer is expected and encouraged to obtain his or her own medical, health and disability insurance.

Volunteer (and Guardian) agrees that, in the event that any clause or provision of this Release and Waiver of Liability shall be held to be invalid, the invalidity of such clause or provision shall not otherwise affect the remaining provisions of this Release and Waiver of Liability, which shall continue to be enforceable.

Signature of Volunteer

Signature of Witness

Signature of Parent Having Legal Custody or
Legal Guardian (If Volunteer is a Minor)

Date

Volunteer Address:
