

# TEEN COURT NEWSLETTER

April 2026

## Teen Court Celebrates 25 Years!

Charles County Sheriff's Office Teen Court is proud to have been in operation for the last 25 years, hearing over 3,200 cases. Teen Court would like to thank our youth and adult volunteers who make it all possible. Their willingness to give so freely of their time and service is greatly appreciated. While the minimum requirement for adults volunteers is one year, most of Teen Court's volunteers have been with the program for 5 to over 20 years. Several youth volunteers start volunteering in middle school and continue through their senior year. Their support of Teen Court allows us to continue to serve the community each year, providing the opportunity to teens to accept responsibility for their actions and change their behavior.

We would also like to thank our Community Partners for their unwavering support of the program. This support has allowed the Teen Court Program to continue our efforts to support and educate our community. In the last 12 months, we have hosted 15 Information Sessions and participated in over 60 community events and meetings. Teen Court has aided in the community with outreach projects like collecting items for food banks and holding the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Hygiene Supply Drive for Charles County Public Schools Community Schools. The support of our Community Partners has also allowed Teen Court to expand their Family Resources List to include dozens of verified resources for families in the community. In 2025, Teen Court also held it's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Resource Hour to provide resources to the community at the start of winter when there are less opportunities for community events.

The Teen Court Program is a cherished part of our community, providing a restorative model of juvenile justice that empowers youth to take accountability through a peer-led process. The success of this initiative depends upon the commitment of dedicated community members like you. Teen Court seeks passionate adult and youth volunteers to support this essential service and provide meaningful mentorship to the next generation.

# TEEN COURT NEWSLETTER

April 2026

## A few words about Teen Court:

“It truly takes a community to support our youth, and Teen Court brings that belief to life by uniting families, volunteers, and dedicated community partners. Together, we surround young people with guidance, accountability, and encouragement while providing meaningful opportunities for growth. Through this collective effort, we help every young person reflect, learn, and move forward with confidence and purpose.”

~ **Morghan Hungerford**, *Exit Interviewer*



“Teen Court programs give young people a constructive way to take responsibility for their actions while avoiding deeper involvement in the justice system. Teen Court also helps teen volunteers develop real-world skills, such as leadership, communication, and decision-making. Most importantly, the program encourages empathy and accountability, showing teens how their choices affect others and giving them the opportunity to contribute to fair and restorative outcomes.”

~ **Dr. Michelle Humphrey**, *Community Judge*



“Teen Court is an outstanding organization that has assisted teens in making good choices and also assisting those that may have not made good choices.”

~ **Wanda Mahoney**, *Community Partner*

“One of my favorite things about Teen Court is seeing how engaged the jurors are. Whether they are respondents fulfilling their required jury duties or volunteers, they take their assignments seriously, are engaged in their questioning and deliberating, and are thoughtful in determining the appropriate sanctions. They can sniff out a fib in a heartbeat, recognize remorse whether it’s communicated verbally or not, and act with kindness and compassion in choosing the best sanctions fit for each respondent. They warm my heart and remind me how important this “second chance” program is in our community.”

~ **Dee Dee Saunders**, *Community Judge*



If you would like to subscribe to the Teen Court Newsletter, use the subject 'Teen Court Newsletter' to one of the contacts below:

**Sarah Vaughan**

Teen Court Coordinator  
vaughans@ccso.us

**Heather LaBelle**

Teen Court Specialist  
labelleh@ccso.us

For more information on  
Upcoming Classes & Events,  
check out our website:



Teen Court Website