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Castle Rock Teen Court

"Justice for Teens by Teens"

Visit our page online:

[CRgov.com/
TeenCourt](http://CRgov.com/TeenCourt)

New Volunteer Training

Do you know someone who would like to volunteer with TC (youth and adults)?
Our next General Legal (New Volunteer) Training will be offered from
July 7th to the 25th. Sign up by emailing tcourt@crgov.com!

Impact

By Kourtnei Wilmes

(VP of Communications, Attorney, Foreperson)

Through Teen Court, we volunteers have an opportunity to impact so many people; the community, one another, the respondents, and the respondent's families. We impact the community by doing our best to keep teenagers out of trouble. With us working to keep teens out of trouble and making sure that if they do get in trouble that they will not do it again. The community can have a restored sense of security knowing that crime is less likely to happen again after a respondent goes through our program. We are working to impact the amount of theft that each storeowner and employee has to deal with and to decrease shoplifting greatly by giving sentences that will deter respondents from re-offending and others from even thinking about shoplifting! One of the main persons we impact is the respondent. When a respondent comes in, we do not look at them and think, "oh this kid is a bad kid". Our goal is to help them through this one bad decision and guide them to not make the same mistake again. The Teen Court volunteers look at the respondent as a whole and see what they like to do and are good at so that we can give them a sentence that is going to help them, not just something that they will do and then go back to making bad choices. Overall we greatly impact the respondents by helping them get back on the right path. We also impact the respondent's families. Some families come in and do not know what is wrong with their child and we help them realize that their teenager just made a mistake and that we can all work together to help their child out so it will not happen again!



Kourtnei
receiving
her
Attorney
Training
Diploma!

Castle Rock Teen Court The Ruling Is In

Volume 5

Spring Issue

What's New in 2016?

Exciting things are happening at Teen Court

- A new Student Advisory Board (SAB) was elected on May 24th with a new position added, VP of Community Service
- We began sentencing our respondents to the new & free Empowerment Seminar
- The 1st two volunteers became members of the 300+ volunteer hour club
- The Municipal Court hired a long-time volunteer as a Court Clerk
- Volunteers have been developing creative new sentencing options including requiring respondents to give a speech...with a power point!
- 6 volunteers graduated from Teen Court "Law School"
- The Colorado Teen Court Association (CTCA) had their first Coordinator Conference
- And much more ...

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1st Annual CTCA Coordinator Conference

On March 4th, Sarah Vanidver, Parker Teen Court Coordinator, hosted the first annual Colorado Teen Court Association (CTCA) Conference. At this conference, coordinators, court administrators, and interested parties were able to hear insightful and inspiring presentations by Thea Wessel, President of the Colorado Association of Addiction Professionals on Teens and Marijuana Use and Staci McCormack, Douglas County Prevention & School Culture Coordinator on Empowering Teens in Crisis. Castle Rock Teen Court and Lakewood Teen Court also did spotlights on how their programs run with a discussion and brainstorming by all attendees about how to better serve the respondents and volunteers in our communities. All attendees are eager for the next conference as our very first one was such a success!

300 + Hours Club

Dedication to Serving the Community

During our annual awards ceremony and banquet this past winter, Alec Greven (SAB President, attorney, judge) and Bella Lewis (SAB VP of Events, attorney, judge) became members of the new 300 + Hours Club and had their names engraved on our perpetual trophy that will, hopefully, be added onto every year!. Congratulations to Alec and Bella and THANK YOU for your dedication to serving your community through Teen Court!

In addition to his extensive volunteering with Teen Court, Alec accepted a part time position with the Town of Castle Rock as a Court Clerk. He also recently received a \$5,000 scholarship from the Douglas & Elbert Country Bar Association for his outstanding service in his community and understanding of law.

Alec and Bella receiving their 300+ Club Awards!



A day at Jail

Field trip to the Justice Center

By Kourtnei Wilmes (VP of Communications, Attorney, Foreperson)

Over spring break, our Teen Court Volunteers went to the Douglas County Justice Center to tour the jail and their courtrooms! We started the day with a tour of the jail. One of the deputies was our tour guide and answered many questions about their facilities and its' processes. We were able to see many different rooms and the amazing pictures and quotations the inmates had painted on the walls. Some of us were even locked in a cell for a couple minutes! After we finished the tour of the jail, we were greeted by two more deputies who gave of us a tour of the courtrooms and intake/outtake offices for respondents. We were able to sit in the jury box and learn different things about the hearings that take place and their multiple courtrooms. We learned about how the inmates come up to their trial and where they have to wait to see the judge. After we finished at the Justice Center, all the volunteers went over to Kneaders for lunch & to spend time with our co-volunteers and friends.



Overall, we learned a great deal of information and had a blast. Thank you to the DC Justice Center for the opportunity to learn more about jail, courts, and the law.



Colorado Teen Court Association (CTCA)

Starting up & Mock Trial Competition

The CTCA officially earned non-profit status and invited the community to receive membership in the association. A huge step and accomplishment in this network of Colorado Teen Courts! The current Teen Court program members are Aurora, Colorado Springs, Parker, Castle Rock, Lone Tree, Brighton, Centennial, Montrose, and Woodland Park! This fall, the CTCA will be holding a trial competition for the youth volunteers. The teen attorneys will be judged based upon their presentation of their arguments during multiple mock trials. This will be an exciting opportunity for volunteers to improve their skills and meet other youth volunteers around the state!

COMING UP: On June 30th, the Douglas County Sheriff's Office will be facilitating a "safeTALK" training for the Castle Rock and Parker Teen Court volunteers to become suicide-alert helpers!

Election Time

A new student advisory board has been elected

We had four incumbent SAB members reelected and three new members voted into the offices of the SAB this May. The SAB members are already working together to plan new events, field trips, and opportunities to further reach out and serve the Castle Rock community. These members will hold monthly meetings to discuss Teen Court functions, events, volunteer opportunities, and more! Congratulations to our new SAB!

SAB Members

President: Alec Greven

VP of Communications: Kourtnei Wilmes

VP Secretary: Aydra Jaten

VP Historian: Jackie Meeks

VP Treasurer: Kylie Conway

VP Events: Bella Lewis & Clorisse Kuhlman

VP Community Service: Brianna Lijewski



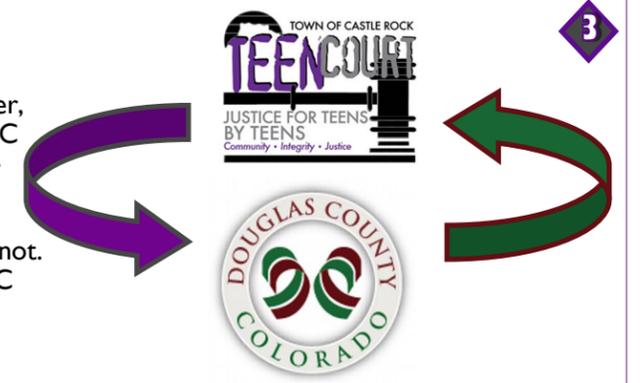
Brianna Lijewski presenting her election speech for VP of Community Service

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Douglas County (DC) Partnership

Working together to serve our youth

The Douglas County Probation Department & Castle Rock, Parker, and Lone Tree Teen Courts are working together in order for DC Probation juveniles to have the opportunity to go through TC rather than county court. Starting in June, this innovative partnership will provide a more equal opportunity for first time, misdemeanor offenders to go through TC when they otherwise could not. We are excited to pilot this new program for the youth in the DC community!

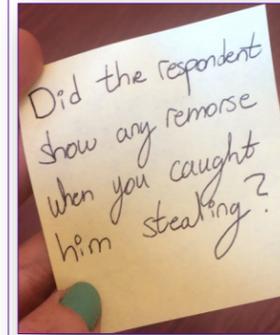


Logo: <https://twitter.com/douglascountyco>

Sticky Notes

A new & improved process

In the past, trial jurors did not have the opportunity to ask witnesses questions during a trial hearing. Volunteers were expressing their desire to be able to ask questions that the attorneys had not covered in their questioning. In order to give the jurors more interaction with the trial process and an opportunity to gain some clarification, the sticky note process was born. Jurors now have the option to write a question or two on a sticky note to be given to the judge for review. If the question is determined appropriate by the judge, the juror's questions are asked & answered. This has been a very successful new method as the jurors are paying close attention to the testimonies and asking for crucial information that may not have been brought up in the testimonies.



Empowerment Seminar

By Staci McCormack

Coordinator—Prevention and student culture for Douglas County schools

Recently, DCSD Prevention & School Culture Department entered into a fairly new collaborative effort with Castle Rock Teen Court. The two organizations are partnering on the foundation of "It takes a village." Research validates students need connection to school and community to thrive. When students are not connected to school, a peer group, family or extra activities, youth might engage in at-risk behaviors in an attempt to discover their true self. The Empowerment Seminars being led by DCSD Prevention & School Culture Department are intended to embrace the youth, help them find their inner strength, facilitate connections with positive friends and discover a new life-story that empowers them to make healthy choices. Students leave this mandatory seminar with fond memories of connecting with make healthy choices. Students leave this mandatory seminar with fond memories of connecting with others through games, conversation and self discovery. Each attendee receives a certificate that demonstrates their completion of the Empowerment Seminar.

Respondent's Thoughts

What personal strengths & talents did you discover/& or gain during your experience with Teen Court?

"**Help for others.** It has made me a **stronger person** by not falling into my peers pressuring me. I have also made many new/better friends."

"I have been interested in law and found out it's a strong point. Also, I just need to be more confident...it goes a long way. **I love this program** and wish more people knew about it."

"I learned that my mistakes **do not make me a bad person**, but can be used as a learning experience I can utilize later on."



Parent's of Respondents Thoughts

Do you have any comments or suggestions?

"I think that through this process she (respondent) has learned that making the right choices...is not optional. **It affects others**, not just herself".

"I just really appreciate that **Castle Rock** proceeds with Teens this way. He (respondent) really enjoys helping with jury duties. [They] help him to realize **he's not alone in his struggle.**"

"[Our relationship] improved dramatically. Finally feel like **I got my son back**, Outstanding program...which helped him to trust adults and begin to **turn his life around**".

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