

Castle Rock Teen Court THE RULING IS IN

Volume 6
Winter Issue



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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

Our next General Legal (New Volunteer) Training will be offered from **June 5th to the 23rd**. Sign up by emailing tcourt@crgov.com!

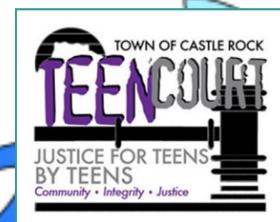
Parent Testimony

"My son was charged with shoplifting at a local retail store[...]For my son, Teen Court chose to have him go before a panel of his peers. These peers were also minors who would listen to the situation and make recommendations of various tasks to help my son take responsibility for the decision (s) that had lead him to be in trouble with the law. While I found the whole process an amazing experience, I would like to take a moment to discuss the panel of peers. All the children on this panel were thoughtful attentive and in no way condescending to either my son or my wife and me. I was impressed with the professional attitude and the questions that were asked by this panel. This panel met with my wife and I and then with my son. The recommendations ranged from community service to interviewing a store manager to write a report on the negative effects of shoplifting to sitting on a panel of peers. All of the assigned tasks were geared to help my son understand how his actions adversely affect the entire community as well as help equip him to make better choices in the future. As he progressed through all of the assigned tasks, I honestly believe that he gained an awareness of his actions and an empathy he did not possess prior to going through this process. This alternative to potentially punishing a minor for the rest of their life for a lapse in judgment is an incredible program and I am saddened that this is not an option in every district of Colorado (and the US in general). The work the coordinator does as well as the rest of the volunteers, cannot be over stated."



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What's New in 2017?

Time for an update

- The Colorado Teen Court Association (CTCA) held the first annual trial completion, Castle Rock enjoyed participating
- We began sentencing our respondents to writing a letter to their "future self"
- Castle Rock members helped Lone Tree Teen Court at their first open house recruiting event
- Three Teen Court volunteers began helping Municipal Court on arraignment day
- 6 more volunteers are expected to graduate from Teen Court "Law School" this spring
- Castle Rock enjoyed another exciting field trip and is having a special speaker come in March for greater learning opportunities
- Parker and Castle Rock volunteers enjoyed an overnight empowerment retreat at Ponderosa Camp in Larkspur
- And much more ...

Gearing up for law school ▫ Alec Greven

Teen Court is excited to be accepting applicants into their 2017 Law School Program! These series of classes work to prepare youth attorneys to prosecute and defend Teen Court's most difficult and complex cases. Law School this year will focus on legal objections, submitting evidence, and questioning witnesses. This program will be taught by adult practicing attorneys and mentors, Nate Marsh and Colleen Scarola. Several youth attorneys of the Teen Court Program will be joining them by coming and offering advice from their own experiences. We look forward to welcoming several new qualified youth attorneys into our program to expand our trial model & give more opportunities to our motivated volunteers.

View of the capital from the Colorado Court of Appeals



Volunteer Statistics

Volunteer's Time Served in 2016:

- Hearings - **975 hours**
- Training and Events - **268 hours**
- Number of Youth volunteers - **42**
- Number of volunteers who were previous defendants - **5**
- Number of Adult Volunteers - **3**

Visit to the Colorado Court of Appeals & Supreme Court

2

- Kourtni Wilmes This summer we volunteers had the wonderful opportunity to visit the Colorado Court of Appeals and Supreme Court! We were able to sit in on an appellate case and watch the process. The process definitely was different than our typical idea of trial courts. After we watched the case we were given a tour around the building and see beautiful courtrooms and art work. They even allowed us to sit in the justice's chairs! After we toured the building, the appellate judges came met with us and answered any

Future judges?



questions we had and explained to us how their job works. Our last stop was visiting their interactive learning room. There were many games to play and things to read about the Supreme Court and appellate court. Afterwards, we went to Civic Center Park and enjoyed lunches from various food trucks. We all spent time talking about everything we experienced. Overall, it was a fantastic day of fun and learning! We are extremely thankful for the opportunity.



Parent's of Respondents Thoughts

Respondent's Thoughts

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

- "That I can resist temptation. You guys helped through a rough patch, gave me a second chance, [...] I really appreciate that."
- "I learned that my mistakes [...] can be used as a learning experience I can utilize later on."
- "That I enjoy helping the community rather than causing it harm."
- "I've learned that when the going gets tough—there are other ways to get out of my issues."
- "That making dumb decision to please others in the moment is something I can overcome b/c my morals and future are much more important."
- "That I can change for the better & that I am better than drugs."

Do you have any comments or suggestions?

- "This was a wonderful experience...we felt very lucky to link up with such wonderful caring people."
- "I believe it needs to continue to be utilized! Such a learning experience."
- "TC is the best thing to turn young teens around and teach them to make better choices. We are thankful for TC."
- "Keep the program going -it's effective."
- "Loved the process! Very informative, productive, and b/c it was a long process, it was good [...] it impressed the long term effects of what [my daughter] did."

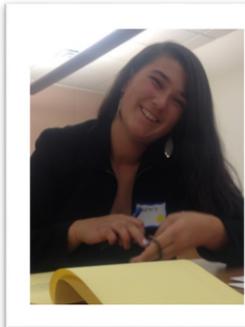
On April 29th, Aurora will host the 2nd CTCA Mock Trial Competition !

Trial Competition

-Kourtni Wilmes

This fall, I had the chance to go Colorado Springs Municipal Court and experience the first CTCA's (Colorado Teen Court Association) Teen Court Mock Trial Competition. It was a great experience! It was extremely interesting to see the different ways that the various Teen Court's in Colorado perform their trials. It was a lot of fun getting to have a trial against other youth attorneys from other Teen Courts. I was able to meet some really nice people! Overall it was a wonderful experience!

Kourtni preparing to compete!



Castle Rock & Colorado Springs working

Lone Tree Teen Court Start Up

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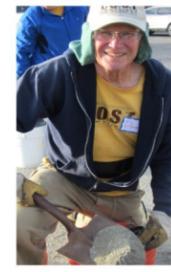
New Teen Court in Colorado

Last fall, the City of Lone tree started their own Teen Court program with Elise Krumholz taking the reigns as the first coordinator of the prople Rock TC volunteers to their 1st open house, what 6 Castle Rock volunteers acted for the case and did a great job taste of the awesome work teering at Teen Court. We are er Douglas County programs community have the option to Teen Court process.



gram. Elise asked some of the Cas-show prospective volunteers of at Teen Court Peer Panels look like. as jurors, respondents, and parents giving these future volunteers a they are able to do through volun-excited to partner more with oth-and pleased that more teens in the volunteer for and participate in the

Keepers of the Rock & Teen Court Partnership



Dennis teaching how to fill

In 2016, American Trails Magazine featured the partnership between Castle Rock's Keepers of the Rock and Teen Court. Keeper's of the Rock has been instrumental in trail maintenance of the Castle Rock Park's trails and has utilized Teen Court respondents as volunteers during 4 hour work crews on the first Saturday of the month April, through November. All Teen Court respondents are required to attend 1 work crew as part of their sentence . Community volunteer ,Dennis Carnahan, plans and facilitates the work crews, teaches the respondents about trail maintenance, and leadership. Each work crew, Dennis empowers the youth to take pride in their efforts on the trail, to be positive leaders, and to work together while following directions. Dennis invests in each of the respondents during those 4 hours and is truly making a difference in their lives as well as ensuring the town's keepsake is safe and enjoyable for everyone in the community. Teen Court greatly appreciates the opportunity to work with Dennis, to have our respondents be able to repair harm done by their offenses to the community, and have our respondents earn lifelong skills that will empower them to make decisions that will have a positive impact on their community in the future!

Respondent Statistics for 2016

We had **53** Peer Panels and **17** Trials last year. Our most frequent charges were **general theft** (34 cases), **marijuana** (19), **alcohol** (10), and **curfew** (10). November ended up being our busiest month with **10 hearings** (even with a week long break for Thanksgiving)!

"Thank you" adult volunteers

-Kylie Conway

This year, our teen attorneys have had the privilege of being assisted by two attorneys, Deputy District Attorney Nate Marsh and DU Career Consultant and Attorney Colleen Scarola. Both have volunteered countless hours driving to the courthouse, sacrificing time from their busy family and work schedules and helping Teen Court volunteers. They help us not only with how to present arguments in a courtroom setting, but also us teens with invaluable advice and guidance as we pursue our future goals. They have also assisted in training teen attorneys and teen judges for court proceedings and stepped in to serve as judge when needed. The presence of Nate and Colleen in our courthouse has provided us with a sense of confidence and the ability to learn and grow. Thank you for all that you do!



The volunteers playing with Colleen's new