

100 Perry St.  
Castle Rock, CO 80104

Phone: 303-663-6136  
Fax: 303-663-6137  
Email: tcourt@crgov.com

### Castle Rock Teen Court

"Justice for Teens by Teens"

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

# Castle Rock Teen Court THE RULING IS IN

Volume 7  
Fall Issue



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### What's New?

#### 2017 Updates

- New Arraignment Court Clerk & Teen Court Assistant
- Exciting new offerings for the Empowerment Seminar
- New Student Advisory Board members voted into office
- 2017 marks the 10 year anniversary of Castle Rock Teen Court
- GAIN Assessments now being used during intake meetings
- Volunteer photo board now in Teen Court office
- We had to say goodbye to many valuable volunteer seniors who are now studying at various colleges around the nation
- Recidivism statistics show Teen Court has a lower rate of re-offenses in Castle Rock than regular Municipal Court

## Santa's Second Chance

Teen Court will be helping again with this year's event on **December 2nd**, shopping and wrapping gifts for kids in the community who wouldn't get Christmas presents otherwise.

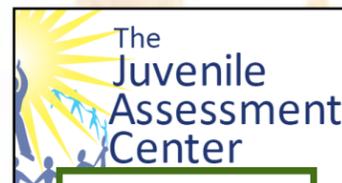
## Marijuana & Teen Court

### A new approach

Teen Court has seen an increase in substance use charges in the last year as well as an increase in the amount of defendants who have used marijuana, not just one time before they were caught, but even on a weekly or daily basis. Teen Court is designed for helping respondents who are low-risk, first time offenders. Sadly, we are seeing that those who are frequent illegal substance users are not successful in the program due to their high risk and need for more intense supervision, drug/alcohol therapy, and higher sanctions. In order to handle this increase in substance abuse, CR Teen Court is now performing a GAIN risk assessment on all TC eligible respondents in order to determine if the respondent's substance use is more than just an experimental trial and instead an addiction problem that needs to be handled with more supervision and higher sanctions in Municipal Court. Our desire is to better serve these teens and to prevent them from the consequences of failing Teen Court and get them to the appropriate help as soon as possible. Our plan is to partner with the JAC's Community Assessment Program and refer the non-eligible Teen Court respondents to get a more extensive assessments to find out their risk factors & needs, and to provide them with multiple resources to get help to overcome their substance abuse.



<https://drugfree.org>



<http://jac18.org/>



## Castle Rock Teen Court's 10th Anniversary!

Back in 2007, Castle Rock's (CR) Town Council approved the budget process and a coalition of parents, judges, attorneys, school administrators, police officers, teens, and other interested community members developed the vision & strategic plan for our Teen Court. For 10 years, Teen Court has brought over a thousand volunteers and respondents together in a unique environment that benefits everyone involved.

### Message from the CR Municipal Court Administrator, Karla McCrimmon

"How exciting to be celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Teen Court! A tremendous thank you to Mark Stevens, former Town Manager, and Carla J. Turner, former Douglas County Youth Initiative Director, for all of their support in launching the Castle Rock Teen Court. This program would not exist today without their help. It has been amazing to watch this program flourish under the great leadership of our Teen Court Coordinators and even more incredible to witness the growth of each and every volunteer and respondent. You, the volunteers, have directly impacted over 700 respondents in the last 10 years. Wow! You have held them accountable

for their actions, but more importantly, you made a connection with them, and gave them an opportunity to learn from their experiences. You directly contribute to the strength of our community. I am very proud of each and every volunteer and the community is grateful for your volunteerism and support. Thank you for everything you do and thank you for representing the Castle Rock Teen Court!"



The 1st Student Advisory Board in 2008

# A Visit from 18th Judicial District Attorney, George Brauchler

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By Kourtni Wilmes, SAB President

“Earlier this year, Teen Court got a once in a lifetime opportunity when we were able to have George Brauchler come speak to us and watch one of our skills to the test with him there to our questions we had and was very more about each of us and our future NEVER regret planning! I think every talk to a huge inspiration to a lot of us!



our trials! Alec and I were able to put give us feedback. He answered all of interested in talking to us and learning aspirations! It was one thing that I will one was able to have a great time and Thank you, Mr. Brauchler!”

## Empowerment Seminar Updates

Available to all kids, no matter how old or where you live

This year, Staci McCormack, the Student Culture Coordinator for Douglas County (DC) High Schools worked hard alongside the various Teen Courts in DC to develop two exciting new offerings starting in 2018. Staci will be privately contracted to facilitate Empowerment Seminars for all of our respondents. We are seeing a rapid increase of non-Douglas County high school students within our Teen Court programs who would greatly benefit from Staci’s well-loved seminar. Before now, her seminar could only be offered to DCHS students due to funding. With the new setup, Staci will now be offering the seminar to all of our high school aged respondents who would benefit from her teaching.

In addition, Staci has worked with the counselors at the Douglas County middle schools to create a two hour Empowerment Seminar appropriate for middle school aged respondents. These seminars will be held at the middle school after their last class to make it convenient for the students and parents. We have heard from many parents that they would love for their middle school kids to go through the empowerment seminar, so we are very excited that this can now be provided for our younger respondents.

## New Student Advisory Board

Sadly, we had to say goodbye to three of our former Student Advisory Board (SAB) members as they graduated high school and went away to college. Thankfully, we had several outstanding volunteers step into their shoes and become the brand new SAB for Castle Rock’s Teen Court.

Message from Kourtni Wilmes, New SAB President

“Hi everyone! My name is Kourtni Wilmes and this year, I was given the amazing opportunity to lead many of the best kids in Castle Rock through a great program! I am so glad I was able to take this spot as President and I hope to continue to help our volunteers grow in and out of Teen Court! This year, the SAB has already planned many fun events and have worked together to make the program better everyday! Our Student Advisory Board will continue to work hard throughout this year to bring our volunteers and community together!”



Left to Right: Kourtni, Jackie, Dawson, Amber, Alix, and Trey (Aydra not pictured)

### Empowerment Seminar Facts

5 hours long

17 respondents sentenced to attend in 2017

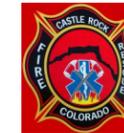
Most Sentenced class in CR Teen Court

“The teachers at Empowerment Class changed my life greatly.”

-Respondent Testimony

“The empowerment class, seemed to have a strong, positive impact. I got really good feedback from him and that the instructor was excellent at getting the kids to talk.”

-Parent Testimony



## CASTLE OF TERROR Annual Halloween Party

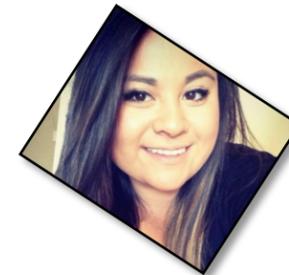


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For the past 3 years, Castle evening of fun together cen- the Castle of Terror Haunted a fun event hosted by the Cas- partments that is used to raise Explorers Post’s. The Ex- vide security for us during a fun way to show our support This year, we enjoyed playing a cookies, and taking pictures of before we went through the



Rock Teen Court has spent an tered around going through House. The Castle of Terror is tle Rock Fire and Police De- money for the Fire and Police plorer’s Post volunteers pro- nighttime court hearings, so it’s to them and get a good scare! few games, eating pizza & our fun Halloween costumes haunted house.



## Volunteer Alumni is Hired!

Message from our new Arraignment Court Clerk

My name is Camarin Quinata, and I am close to the end of my paralegal degree but at the beginning of my career. I am earning my Associates of Applied Science degree in Paralegal/ Legal Assistant studies at ACC and currently working at CR Municipal Courthouse. Although, it seems like it was just yesterday that I was volunteering for Teen Court (TC). TC was the best four years of my life. Though TC’s mission is to hold first-time, non-violent juvenile offenders accountable for their actions, I would say there’s a lot more to TC’s purpose. Throughout my years of volunteering, I learned how to uphold a character of respect, discipline, and professionalism. TC is the best way to get the experience learning how the court system works and more. One of my most significant accomplishments was representing my peers in trials. The reason why I found it the most accomplishing is that I have always dreamt of being a lawyer and representing my clients. Furthermore, having the opportunity to learn how the litigation process works at a micro level has helped me in my professional life and continues to help me to this day. Now that I am working for the courthouse, I can use skills speaking with other attorneys and judges, assisting people in processing fees, and helping TC volunteers in peer panels and trials. My experience working with the volunteers is a fantastic opportunity to help them learn how the process works and how to best uphold the principles of Restorative Justice, as I had to learn when I was a volunteer. Furthermore, my team here at Castle Rock Municipal Court have taught me what it’s like to treat each other with respect and to always have an open mind towards others out in the community. As I continue to progress throughout my professional career, I will always bring an open mind and respect.

## CTCA Annual Adult Conference

Castle Rock Hosted the 2nd Annual Conference

In October, Castle Rock Teen Court hosted the adult conference for the Colorado Teen Court Association, which brought coordinators, court administrators, school resource officers, and community partners together for trainings on suicide prevention taught by Denise Montano from INNOVA Recovery Services, creating a positive culture for volunteers through making a connection taught by Staci McCormack from DCSD, and getting Teen Courts more involved and impactful to the community. We also had a roundtable discussion where attendees could discuss relevant issues, questions, and ideas with one another. Everyone had a good time learning from other Teen Courts around the state and gaining new ideas and knowledge from the insightful guest speakers.



Staci McCormack led an interactive & exciting training session