



Castle Rock Teen Court

Volume 9/ Spring Issue

Volunteer Updates

Find out what our 82 volunteers have been doing!

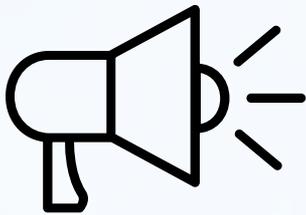
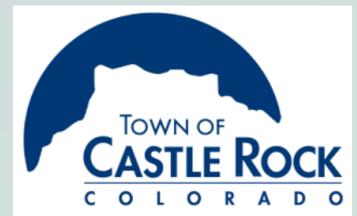


Respondent Updates

Learn about the respondents we worked with last year and find out what types of crimes we are seeing in Teen Court and what kinds of sentences our youth volunteers are assigning their peers.

Program News

Read about updates to our program!



General Legal Training : July 9th-30th

New volunteers are able to attend this rewarding training to become a volunteer for the Castle Rock Teen Court.

Volunteer Updates

Swearing In Ceremony at Town Council

Every year, our adult volunteer, a Deputy District Attorney for Colorado Springs, Nate Marsh, facilitates an attorney training for our youth volunteers and then swears them in as new volunteers in front of the Town Council. This year, we had 9 youth volunteers participate in the training. 6 volunteers were able to attend the swearing in ceremony with their families watching them commit to serving the Town of Castle Rock and the Teen Court program by serving as youth defense and prosecuting attorneys for our juvenile respondents. After the ceremony, the kids received a standing ovation from the Town Council and a "congratulations" from Mayor Green. As Council member Bower stated after the ceremony, in reference to the work these volunteers are doing, **"One of the most important things we can do as human beings is take care of each other."** We cannot agree with Council member Bower more...it is wonderful to see each of these new youth attorneys are doing just that through their participation in Teen Court.





Volunteer Updates

Trail Maintenance CASTLE ROCK PARK WORK CREW



Throughout the summer and fall of 2018, Teen Court volunteers partnered with Keepers of the Rock and the Teen Court respondents to maintain Rock Park's trails. For years, volunteers have sentenced respondents to complete this work on our Town's namesake. At the beginning of the summer, we decided it would be beneficial for our volunteers to truly experience what they are sentencing their peers to and to also partner in this wonderful work for the Town of Castle Rock. 2 volunteers completed multiple work crews during the year and are already signed up to complete more work crews this summer! We are thankful to our volunteers for being willing to spend an early Saturday morning working alongside other teens to ensure the well-loved "Rock" is preserved for many years to come.



Field Trip

DC CORONER'S OFFICE

In the summer of 2018, the Castle Rock and Lone Tree Teen Court Volunteers went on a field trip to the Douglas County Coroner's Office. The visit was extremely interesting, informative, and fun for all!



Coroner Jill Roman spent a few hours with the volunteers, teaching them, making them laugh, and giving them some realities about life and the job that she and her staff have to do to serve our county. It was a sobering experience and one that the volunteers will never forget!

Breaking Records

NEW VOLUNTEERS



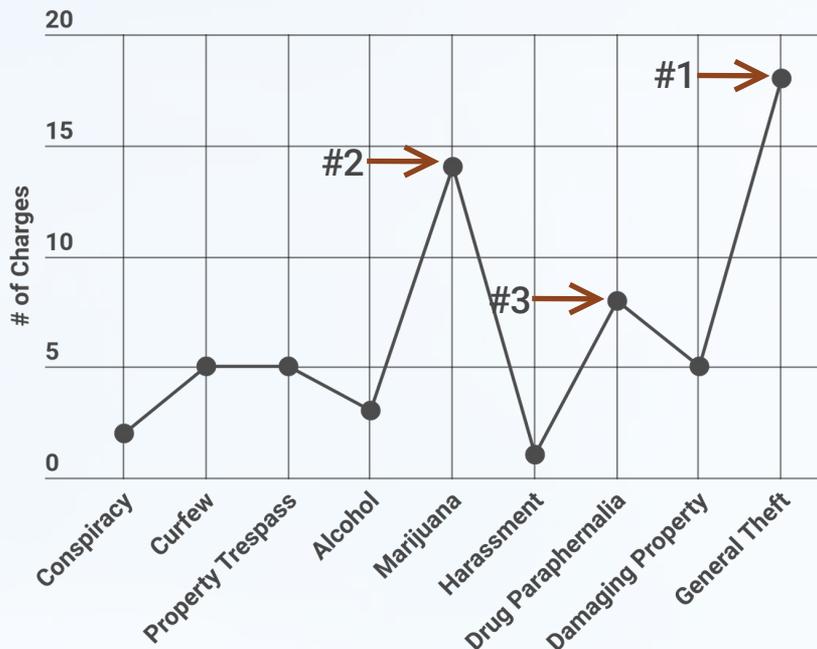
It was an exciting General Legal Training for 2018! Castle Rock Teen Court had it's largest graduating class of General Legal Training yet. 27 new volunteers flooded the courtroom to learn more about the courts, police department, investigations department, victim advocates unit, restorative justice, motivational interviewing, and how to be an effective Teen Court volunteer! We had a wonderful time and are excited that so many volunteers from as far as Littleton and Monument are coming to participate in our program.

2018 Volunteer Statistics





2018 Respondent Charges Totals Graph



Respondent Updates

Feedback

PARENTS OF RESPONDENTS

"I am **very grateful** for this program. I think it helped straighten my son out before he had some **life changing** negative consequences."

"I felt the biggest harm from his actions was the **trust** between myself and my son. Through this process, **we have rebuilt that.**"



RESPONDENTS

"I liked the peer panel (jury duty) and **I feel I can help people** that made the same mistakes I did. Teen Court helped me find the **kindness** I really have in me."

"Through Teen Court, I learned I **really enjoy helping youth** and I learned how to **take charge** of my future and make sure to **push myself** in a positive direction."

"I loved it, the kids [TC youth volunteers] and environment are **very welcoming.**"



Vaping

In recent years, Castle Rock has seen an increase in nicotine use through vaping devices. In 2018, town partners realized it was time to ensure that our laws matched the state and county laws to include vaping devices in the prohibition of tobacco or nicotine by a juvenile. The Town's former ordinance was amended to include nicotine products. For the teens who are receiving the tickets, Teen Court is able to give a restorative justice experience that will help them to learn from their actions and find other ways to "fit-in" or cope with life rather than using a vape device. Nicotine addiction is a serious and growing issue in our community and we are thankful to be able to give a positive learning experience to the teens in our community.

Motivational Interviewing

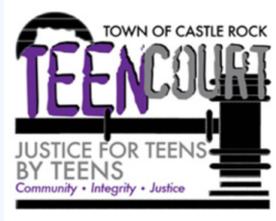
In the last year, the volunteers have been trained to utilize some motivational interviewing skills when questioning respondents. Motivational interviewing focuses on helping the respondent to come to "life-changing" conclusions. Volunteers do this through building rapport, identifying the respondent's "change goal", building motivation for the respondent, and finally planning with them to ensure their confidence and commitment to positive change. This 4 tiered process will make the respondent a participant of their sentencing rather than just a recipient. We are utilizing this evidence based practice to increase respondent buy-in, success, and future life changing outcomes.

2018 Sentencing Options Assigned

Letter to Future Self	5
Theft Class	5
Substance Abuse Class	8
Essay	14
Empowerment Class	22
Work Crew	42
Letter of Apology	53
Jury Duty Hours	166
Community Service Hrs	584



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Castle Rock Teen Court is a member of the
Colorado Teen Court Association (CTCA).

Check-out the CTCA online:
coloradoteencourt.org

Joy in People and Change

BY CAMARIN ZANGER - TEEN COURT ASSISTANT & INTERN

Camarin volunteered four years for Teen Court prior to becoming the Coordinator's Assistant .

"My experience as the Teen Court Assistant overall has been nothing but a joy. To be a part of a team that cares for the well being of their peers and who dedicate their free time, despite their busy schedules, is an honor. Our volunteers have taught me what it means to have compassion for others. They have also taught me what it means to strive to be your best self each and every day, and because our volunteers have displayed this in their own lives, they have challenged me to continuously grow personally and professionally. Overall, the one thing I love the most is how our volunteers make me feel valued, and because of that, I always come here wanting to be the best I can be. So, if you asked me what I love the most about this internship, my answer would be the people I get to work with and the opportunities I get to positively change lives. "

