

**JEFFERSON COUNTY TEEN COURT**

**2023-2024**

Philosophy:

If peer pressure can be used to exert a negative influence, it likewise can be used as a positive force. Teen Court is based upon the premise that most young people want to do what is right when making decisions. Even those who may make the wrong choice due to external factors such as peer pressure are often gratified to learn that they have an opportunity to make amends. What better way to impress upon a young offender than to be judged by a jury of their peers? Positive peer pressure in this student-run court setting will have a more immediate and meaningful effect upon the individual than the more traditional juvenile justice approach. The message given by a peer jury will be long remembered by those seeking to fit within a group and be accepted.

Teen Court provides juvenile offenders an opportunity to participate in a less formal court process – one that is controlled by their peers. Students fulfill the roles of attorneys, jurors, bailiffs, and clerks and the case is presented to a volunteer District or Family Court Judge. Students must complete four mandatory training sessions and a swearing-in ceremony prior to presenting and hearing cases.

Students interested in participating in the 2023-2024 Jefferson County Teen Court Diversion Program can complete the attached form and **return it to Teen Court by October 23, 2023**, via email at: teencourt.jeff.coordinator@gmail.com.



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| **Jefferson County Student Membership Application** |
| Student Name: |
| Age:  | Past Participant?  |
| Current address: |
| City:  | State:  | ZIP Code: |
| High School/Current Grade: |
| Best email/phone number to use for Teen Court communication:  |
| Name of a parent or guardian: |
| Address:  | ZIP Code: |
| City:  | State:  | Phone: |
| Relationship:  | Email: |
| **Please print legibly.** |



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| If accepted to the Jefferson County Teen Court Diversion Program, your signature on this form indicates your agreement to participate in **four mandatory training sessions** as listed below. All training sessions will be conducted at the Hall of Justice, 600 W. Jefferson St., Louisville, KY 40202.**Mandatory Training Schedule:** Wednesday, November 1, 2023: 6:00 – 8:00 pm\* A parent or guardian must also attend this session.Wednesday, November 8, 2023: 6:00 – 8:00 pmWednesday, November 15, 2023: 6:00 – 8:00 pmWednesday, November 29, 2023: 6:00 – 8:00 pmYou further agree to attend the Jefferson County Teen Court hearing(s) for which you are summoned to serve (all hearing dates listed below).Wednesday, January 17, 2024: 6:00 – 8:00 pmWednesday, February 21, 2024: 6:00 – 8:00 pmWednesday, March 20, 2024: 6:00 – 8:00 pmWednesday, April 17, 2024: 6:00 – 8:00 pmAll hearings begin promptly at 6:00 pm. You **MUST** arrive no later than 5:45 pm.Graduation ceremony: Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at 6:00 pm.**I understand that I must let the Teen Court Coordinator know at least a week prior to the hearing if I cannot attend**. **I understand that if I miss two hearings without a valid excuse then I will be removed from Jefferson County Teen Court**. If accepted to the Jefferson County Teen Court Diversion Program, the student’s signature on this form indicates the student’s agreement to keep **all** information disclosed during Teen Court hearings **confidential**. The parent/guardian signature on this form gives permission for the below-named student to participate in Teen Court. |
| **Student name:** |  |
| **Student signature:**  | **Date:** |
| **Parent/guardian name:** |  |
| **Parent/guardian signature:**  | **Date:** |