

Youth Court Report

Tennessee Youth Court Program
221 Fourth Avenue North, Suite 400
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Recruiting Volunteers

START EARLY

The best way to get volunteers is by pre-recruiting them. In other words, go through last year's volunteers and this year's volunteers and select the members that you think will be the most helpful.

Have each of them make a list of three to five potential volunteers and then instruct them to invite each potential volunteer to a meeting.

CREATE AN EASY SIGN-UP SHEET

At your first meeting, circulate a sheet that has defined duties and time requirements. If the person is interested have a spot for them to write their name and

contact number along with e-mail address.

GET EXPERIENCE

You'll want involvement from those with specific knowledge of what works. Rely on your veterans from previous efforts, but don't overload them or you'll burn them up at a rapid rate.

BUILD FOR THE FUTURE

Empower volunteers to make the right decisions and they'll feel like they're making a difference. That empowerment will translate into a higher return rate next year among your volunteer pool. ■



Montgomery County Teen Court ended session for the summer in April and will start back in August. The above picture is from the Installation Ceremony in September. That same night they heard four cases.

Wilson County Holds Installation Ceremony



Pictured L-R Adrian Ricketts, Courtney Reeder, Crystal Kloss, Heather Meador and Brooke Borcharding. Second row: Muisshia Pitts, Kristine Seay, Kristin Smith and Jordan Jackson. Third Row: Amy Rich, Jade Hess, Jordon Dain and Ron Rockhill. Fourth Row: Hope Orrand, Casey Smith, Anna Rich and Parker Ratliff. Fifth Row: Bandon Carver, James Baldwin, Brooklyn Harrington, Drake Andrews, Brice Armstrong, Dwin Tweedy and Dylan Pelley.



Above, seniors Hudson Warner of Mt. Juliet High School and Tachiana Pitts of Lebanon High School were recognized for their service to Wilson County Teen Court by getting scholarships for the upcoming college year.

The newest members of the Wilson County Teen Court were installed Tuesday, May 12, 2009 during a ceremony at the James E. Ward Agricultural Center. Wilson County Teen Court processed 121 cases in 2008. ■

Quote of Note

I always wondered why somebody didn't do something about that.
Then I realized
I was somebody.

New Youth Court Coordinator

Alexandria Honeycutt is the new Youth Court Coordinator for the Tennessee Youth Court Program, a division of the nonprofit Tennessee Legal Community Foundation.

Prior to working with the TLCF, Honeycutt worked for U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander and State Senator Jamie Woodson. Most recently, Honeycutt was the Senior Development Officer for Mothers Against Drunk Driving. A resident of Nashville, Alexandria holds a degree in Speech Communication from The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. ■

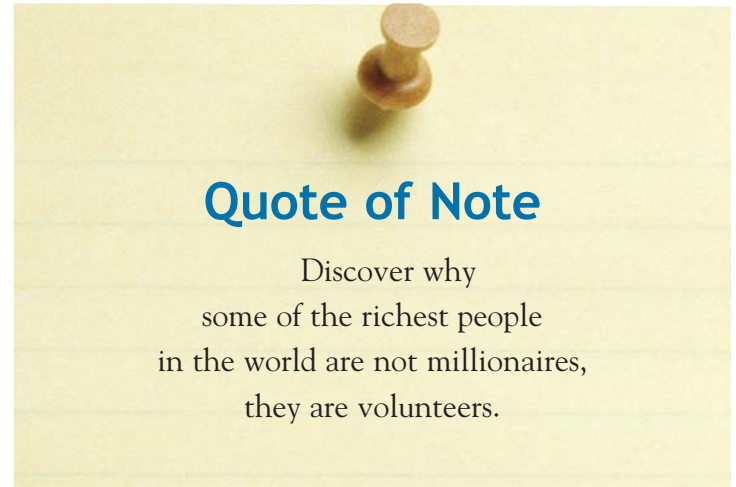
Save The Date

The Youth Court Day will be held on August 8, 2009 at the Tennessee Bar Center in Nashville. You will be receiving an e-mail with topics to choose from for our speakers. Some of the options will include sentencing options, appropriate line of questioning, what other Youth/Teen Courts are sentencing for the same case etc. Lunch will be provided and parking will be validated. More information will be sent out as the date gets closer.

AlcoholEdu for Youth Sanctions

This web-based course presented by Outside the Classroom, incorporates prevention techniques with science-based alcohol education. This 90-minute course helps young people who have violated alcohol laws make safer and healthier decisions about drinking. The course addresses three main issues: alcohol the drug, effects on mind and body, and making healthy decisions. Because youth come to the course with different backgrounds and different experiences with alcohol, the course chooses different pathways for each youth depending on their level of use and commitment to stopping or reducing their alcohol use. Implementation is practical for youth court coordinators, when the course has been completed, a report is e-mailed to the coordinator.

If this is something that you are interested in for your Youth/Teen Court please contact Alexandria Honeycutt at ahoneycutt@tnbar.org for further information. ■



Quote of Note

Discover why some of the richest people in the world are not millionaires, they are volunteers.

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The Tennessee Youth Court Program, a project of the Tennessee Legal Community Foundation, is funded by a Federal Formula Grant from the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth. The findings, conclusions and recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Commission or the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

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Fundraising

The first steps to a successful fundraiser are to identify your group's needs by setting financial goals. If your group members know how the money will be spent and their personal benefits, this will motivate them, keep them focused and help with their sales pitch.

LEADERSHIP

One of the most important issues when conducting a fundraiser is making sure that you choose a strong leader. If the organization does not have someone with

time, energy and the drive to make your fundraiser successful, it will be doomed from the start. The leader should be the Youth Court Coordinator for your court.

ROLE PLAY

One of the biggest priorities before sending individuals out to fundraise is practicing what they will say to potential supporters. If they have practiced it several times out loud, they will be much more comfortable when the moment presents itself. ■

Fundraising Ideas

VIDEO GAME TOURNAMENT

You can easily put together a video game tournament as a fundraiser. Obviously, you'll need plenty of game consoles and TV sets, but those are pretty easy to line up.

You can do a tournament bracket and have elimination matches leading up to a championship showdown. Or, you can have high score contests where players can keep trying to outdo the record right up until the final bell.

Charge admission to spectators, charge by the game or just collect an entry fee to cover all games played.

BOARD GAME NIGHT

Kids love to gather with their friends, so why not turn a youth group gathering into a fundraiser? Plan a board game night on a Friday if it's during the school year, or anytime during school breaks depending on best availability. Have families lend board games from home that are appropriate to the age group. A game that does not take too long to play works best since you want each child to play as many games as possible.

Each game costs a dollar to play. Play rounds of games tournament style with a few surviving winners at the end of the evening. A playoff is exciting for the whole crowd.

A prize for the final winner could be something as simple as a gift certificate to a local ice cream parlor, or a larger prize donated by a local business. This can be an ongoing fundraiser done once a month or once a quarter. Once the word gets out, this will be the happening thing for the entire group. ■

Sexting and Teens

Sending nude photos via text messaging — often called "sexting" — has become a popular flirting technique among teens that some say can have adverse penalties. Teens do not always think through how their actions lead to consequences. Some teens are taking nude pictures of themselves using a cell phone. These photos are then sent to a girlfriend/boyfriend to keep as a private gift. Unfortunately, the photos are sent to others either by accident or as revenge. Once the photo or video is sent to another via the cell phone, this is sexting and potentially illegal.

A 2008 survey conducted by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unwanted Pregnancy reported that 39 percent of teens (that's ages 13-19) have sent or posted sexually suggestive messages over IM, text or e-mail and around 48 percent of teens are receiving such messages. Half of those teens, 20 percent, are sending or posting nude or semi-nude pictures of themselves.

In Tennessee, sexting can result in state felony charges, including creation, possession and distribution

of child pornography. If charged, defendants must automatically register in the Tennessee sex offender database.

There have been no cases of sexting prosecuted in the state of Tennessee at this point, but Knox County officials report that 40 percent of teens admit to sending sexually explicit text messages. Any such cases of teen sexting would go through the juvenile court system.

Franklin police and Williamson County attorneys say they're handling more cases involving kids sending or posting nude photos of themselves or other kids. Most are doing this in a girlfriend/boyfriend relationship or as a dare, although some cases are malicious.

There have been cases involving kids as young as 11, they said.

At grade school presentations, officers ask how many kids have their own cell phones. "I was shocked how many raised their hands — almost every one," said Brett Kniss, a Franklin police detective.

While it may be shocking, the practice of "sexting", it is not unusual, especially for high schoolers around the country. ■