



# Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County

616 ADAMS AVENUE MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38105  
901/222-0906 and 901-222-0905

Dear Prospective Student Volunteer:

We are extremely delighted to know that you are interested in becoming a Youth Court volunteer. Youth Court is a juvenile delinquency diversion and peer-justice program. It is devoted to restorative justice principles—that is, we work to destroy the damaged relationship between youthful offenders, their victims, families and our community. Youth Court is dedicated to three principles: rehabilitating juvenile nonviolent offenders; holding juveniles accountable for their behavior; and, educating juveniles about citizenship, the legal system, and constructive conflict resolution.

The goal of Youth Court is to use positive peer pressure to ensure that young people *who have committed minor offenses* repair the damage they cause to their victims and to our community and receive the help they need to avoid further confrontation with the justice system.

As Youth Court volunteers, via Zoom or in-person scheduled hearings, you will prosecute, defend and serve as bailiffs and jurors in *sentencing hearings* of juvenile offenders. An adult judge attorney volunteer will supervise the hearings.

Youth Court will not impose custodial (jail) sentences or fines. Sentences will focus on restorative and rehabilitative measures, including: Written or oral apologies, restitution (paying the victim the value of the damage caused to the victim), essays, counseling, drug and alcohol assessments, addiction treatment, curfew, and community service.

Respondents (offenders) that have been referred to Youth Court will appear before a true jury of their peers, via Zoom, and learn that other youth disapprove of their delinquent behavior. Satisfactory compliance with the Youth Court disposition will result in dismissal of the original charges. This is an opportunity for the respondent to have his/her slate wiped clean and avoid establishment of a juvenile criminal record. If the respondent fails to comply with the sentence, he/she will be referred back to the juvenile court for a formal hearing.

As a Youth Court volunteer, you will be credited community service hours, as well as receive ongoing intensive development and team building activities which will cultivate your leadership skills. Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County is continuously working with the Tennessee Bar Association in the development and operation of its Youth Court.

If you are in the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade and interested in volunteering to participate in Youth Court, please complete the accompanying application and email it to [youthcourt@shelbycountyttn.gov](mailto:youthcourt@shelbycountyttn.gov)

Pamela James  
Youth Court Coordinator  
(901) 222-0906 (office)  
(901) 275-0904 (mobile)  
(901) 222-0801 (Fax)

[pamela.james@shelbycountyttn.gov](mailto:pamela.james@shelbycountyttn.gov)

Marcus Claxton  
Judicial Services Coordinator  
Office: 901-222-0905  
Fax: 901-222-0801  
[marcus.claxton@shelbycountyttn.gov](mailto:marcus.claxton@shelbycountyttn.gov)

**Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County**  
**616 Adams Avenue**  
**Memphis, TN 38105**  
**(901) 222-0906 or 901-222-0905**

**Youth Court Volunteer Application Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Race \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Student Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/ Guardian  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/ Guardian Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/ Guardian Phone \_\_\_\_\_

What school do you attend? \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

What types of activities are you involved with in school? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What activities are you involved with outside of school? (Church, community, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you work? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, where? \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Hours per week \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about/become interested in youth court? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

***Referred by:*** \_\_\_\_\_

What qualities do you have that would make you a good youth court volunteer? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What do you hope to gain from being in youth court? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What are your educational or career plans after graduation from high school? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been found guilty of a crime? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

If so, what charge? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever come in contact with or had any experience with any law enforcement agency of the court system? If so, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been the victim of a crime? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

If so, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Youth Court hearings are heard every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Are you available to volunteer for youth court? \_\_\_\_\_

## REFERENCES

Please include one educational reference and one community reference. The educational reference may be either a teacher or an administrator. The community reference should be over twenty-one years of age and should not be a relative.

### Educational Reference:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Family Friend Reference:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Emergency Contact:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to you \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby affirm that all of the answers provided on my volunteer application are true. I hereby authorize Youth Court to investigate my academic and criminal background to determine my potential as a volunteer and provide the information herein for that purpose.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Volunteer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date