

# FAQ

## WHAT TYPES OF CASES DO WE TAKE?

Cases are referred by Westchester County Probation Department, County Attorney's Office, and local high schools. Types of cases vary but include criminal mischief, shoplifting, vandalism, assault, and more.

## WHAT IS THE YOUTH COURT PROCESS?

Once a case is accepted, the client will participate in a defense interview where they will meet their defense team, comprised of Youth Court members. Members on the prosecution and defense teams then prepare their cases for trial while the client meets with their social work counselor to begin sessions.

## WHAT IS DECIDED IN TRIAL?

Youth are sanctioned by a jury of their peers (consisting of high school students 14-17 years old) to sentences which may include community service hours, counseling sessions, essays, a written or verbal apology, jury duty, and more.



# Get Involved



### To become a Youth Court Member:

- You must be between 14-17 years old
- Complete our annual summer training (Dates TBD)

For questions and to get involved, contact:

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 @wpyouthbureau

[www.whiteplainsyouthbureau.org](http://www.whiteplainsyouthbureau.org)



## White Plains Youth Bureau Community Youth Court



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# About Us

The primary goal of Youth Court is to offer juvenile offenders the opportunity to avoid the irreversible and disadvantageous nature of a permanent criminal record and instead get a second chance through the benefits the program offers: participation in community service, mental health counseling, and substance abuse and delinquency prevention education. Juveniles who go through Youth Court trials are also given a social work counselor and an adult mentor who provides support and guidance through the process.



## Youth Court Members

Youth Court members consist of dedicated, high-achieving high school students from White Plains and the surrounding areas. Members are thoroughly trained on aspects of the law and courtroom proceedings before participating in Youth Court trials. Members spend several hours a week participating in the restorative justice process as prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges, jury members, youth advocates, and more!



Being a part of positive change in the criminal justice system has been truly rewarding. Hundreds of youths have passed through the doors of the Youth Court and because of the program, they have no marks on their permanent records and, just as importantly, are given a second chance.



### SOLENN MCGRORY

Youth Court Member

Youth Court members are provided with field trips and learning opportunities throughout the year for professional development, advocacy, and fun!



Youth Court Members attending the annual United Nations Global Engagement Summit 2023!

# Benefits of Youth Court

- Youth who complete the program will avoid having the offense on their record
- Youth take responsibility for their actions by completing community service while participating in weekly counseling sessions.
- White Plains Youth Court had a 100% success rate last year, not one youth committed a further offense.
- Youth Court members gain valuable experience processing real juvenile cases, improving key skills such as writing, research, public speaking, and advocacy.
- Youth Court Members have landed internships with local Judges from the Westchester Supreme Court, Corporation Counsel, County Prosecutor's office, and more.
- White Plains Youth Court partners with other organizations like Elisabeth Haub School of Law (Pace University) to hold free, interactive events including an annual Law Day, where students from all over the county can learn about careers and the rule of law.

