

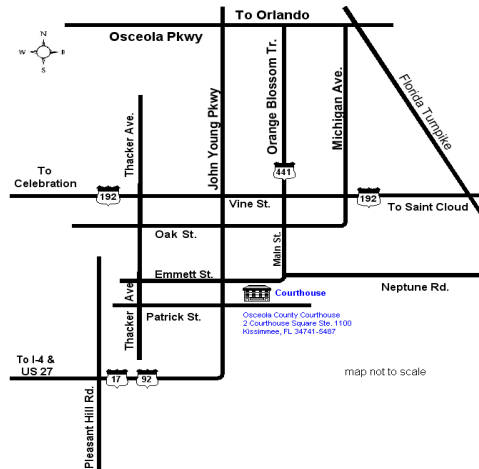
HOW DOES TEEN COURT WORK?

The defendant is assigned a teen defense attorney to represent him or her. The defendant testifies to the jury about their involvement in the offense. The jury then decides sanctions for the defendant. The sentences include community service hours and future jury duty. These sanctions are designed to be constructive and rehabilitative. The jury may also recommend other sanctions such as essays, letters of apology, curfews and restitution.

The defendant has five weeks to complete the jury's sentence. Once the sentence is completed, the case is dismissed by the State Attorney's office. If the defendant fails to complete the sentence, the case is referred back to formal Juvenile Court.



NOTE: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in Teen Court, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Court Administration at Two Courthouse Square, Suite 6300, Kissimmee, FL 34741, Telephone: **(407) 742-2417** for more information and to ensure that reasonable accommodations are available. If you are hearing or voice impaired, please call **1-800-955-8771**.



OSCEOLA COUNTY TEEN COURT

Osceola County Teen Court
 2 Courthouse Square
 Phone: 407-742-2465
oscjuvdiv@ocnjcc.org

OSCEOLA COUNTY
TEEN COURT

OSCEOLA COUNTY TEEN COURT VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

A FIRST-TIME OFFENDER DIVERSION PROGRAM



NINTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT COURT OF
FLORIDA

WHY DO WE HAVE TEEN COURT?

The purpose of Teen Court is to divert less serious cases away from the more formal Juvenile Court.

The Teen Court process provides:

- 1) a forum for defendants to explain their involvement in the offense;
- 2) a structured environment in which the defendants are evaluated and judged by a jury of their peers;
- 3) the opportunity for defendants to accept responsibility for their actions when judged and sentenced by their peers.

Teen Court is based upon the premise that youthful offenders will more readily accept responsibility for their actions when judged and sentenced by their peers.

HOW DO I VOLUNTEER?

Teen Court volunteers must:

- 1) Be at least 12-19 years old (younger volunteers will be accepted on a case-by-case basis);
- 2) Respect the oath of confidentiality;
- 3) Demonstrate maturity and respect;
- 4) Abide by all Teen Court guidelines;
- 5) Fill out the volunteer application and attend the new volunteer training class;
- 6) Dress appropriately: participants cannot wear shorts, capris, flip flops or shirts with writing on them. A more detailed dress code will be provided at the new volunteer training.
- 7) Maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA (all volunteers must provide their student ID numbers for verification).

All new volunteers and their parents will be required to sign the waiver of confidentiality to allow us to verify your current GPA. Your right to volunteer will be suspended if your GPA falls below the minimum requirement.



WHEN AND WHERE IS TEEN COURT HELD?

Osceola County Teen Court is held on Wednesday evenings at the Osceola County Courthouse, 2 Courthouse Square, on the third floor at 4:30pm.

All volunteers must provide their own transportation and must dress appropriately.

Volunteers receive three hours of community service for jury duty. Volunteers that serve as teen attorneys, court clerks or court deputies receive four hours of community service for their work.

All volunteers are required to attend at least one new volunteer training in Teen Court and serve a minimum of four nights of jury duty to become a teen attorney.

Volunteers that have participated in Osceola County Teen Court for a minimum of one year can also apply for college scholarships provided by the Education Foundation. Applicants must be accepted to a college or university and must complete the required scholarship application.