

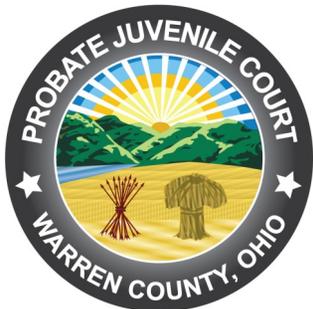
WHAT YOU NEED TO DO TO VOLUNTEER

For those of you who wish to volunteer in Warren County's Youth Court, access the Court's website at:

www.co.warren.oh.us/probate_juvenile/ and under the "Youth Court" tab, click on the *Volunteer Application* form.

Complete the application and make sure you get your parent's permission to participate before submitting your application.

I understand that in order for me to participate, I must attend a mandatory training session regarding program overview, case presentation, and courtroom conduct. I further understand that I am responsible for my behavior during all phases of my participation in Youth Court.



A Message From Judge Kirby

Thank you for your interest in Warren County Juvenile Court's Youth Court. I believe this program will serve as an outstanding option for misdemeanor offenses while also providing young men and women in our community with a great opportunity to experience the juvenile justice process.

I would also like to convey one important component of Youth Court that is always at the forefront of the efforts of all participants: while the youthful offender should be held accountable for his or her offense, Youth Court should be an instrument of restorative justice. It is an opportunity for a youth to right a wrong and to hold the offender accountable to the victim and the community. At the same time, it provides our youth volunteers with a unique introduction to the juvenile justice system.

Your involvement in Youth Court is greatly appreciated and I am confident that you will find the experience a rewarding one.

Warren County
Juvenile Court's

Youth Court



An Informational Pamphlet

**Joseph W. Kirby
Judge**

Warren County
Probate-Juvenile Court
900 Memorial Drive
Lebanon, OH 45036

www.co.warren.oh.us/probate_juvenile/

Warren County Youth Court

What is Youth Court?

The Warren County Youth Court is a program designed to provide the community's youth exposure to the juvenile justice system. Youth volunteers will hear real cases in Juvenile Court and they will actually participate in the proceedings.

What Happens in Youth Court?

Youthful offenders who have already admitted to an offense appear for a dispositional hearing. A jury of their peers will hear the evidence of their case that is relevant to their particular sanction. After hearing the evidence and arguments from the youth defense attorney and prosecutor, the jury will begin deliberations to determine what penalty will be rendered to the offender. The dispositions may include options such as community service, research projects or paying restitution to the victim of their crime. If the youthful offenders abide by the conditions of their sanctions, the charge against them will be dismissed. If they are unsuccessful, they will be scheduled to appear before the Judge or Magistrate for an official hearing to face further sanctions. The jury cannot sentence a youth to a detention facility.

Who Participates in Youth Court Proceedings?

Youth volunteers will assume the roles of judge, bailiff, prosecutor, defense attorney, and jurors. Adults will serve only in an advisory capacity. Youth Court participants volunteer their services.

What Types of Cases are Heard in Youth Court?

Cases are referred to the Youth Court by the Judge and Magistrates. The program coordinator will screen the cases and determine which are suitable for Youth Court. Cases heard by Youth Court will involve youthful offenders who have admitted to committing misdemeanor offenses such as underage consumption, criminal damaging, and disorderly conduct. The parents or guardians of the youthful offender must also agree to have their child's dispositional hearing conducted in Youth Court.

Participation Requirements

Every high school student who lives in Warren County is invited and encouraged to participate. You must get your parent's permission in order to participate. The *Volunteer Application* can be accessed on the Juvenile Court website at www.co.warren.oh.us/Probate_juvenile/ under the 'Youth Court' drop down menu. Volunteers must attend a mandatory training session at the Warren County Juvenile Court before they can participate in Youth Court. The training session will teach participants proper conduct during the hearings and how they can best apply the principles of restorative justice to their dispositions. Youth Court also provides participants the opportunity to accrue community service hours.

Roles of Youth Court Participants

Judge: Presides over the dispositional hearings, explains the offenses to the jury, instructs the jury prior to their deliberation and issues the disposition according to the jury's recommendations. Unlike a lot of Youth Court models, these duties will be performed by a youth judge.

Bailiff: Is responsible for signing in the participants for the hearings. The Bailiff leads the jurors to and from the courtroom and calls the Youth Court to order as the judge enters.

Prosecutor: Represents the interests of the people of the community, reviews the circumstances of the offense, presents evidence at the dispositional hearing and offers recommendations to the jury.

Defense Counsel: Represents the interests of the offender, reviews the circumstances of the offense, relates the background of the offender, presents evidence at the dispositional hearing, including mitigating evidence, and makes recommendations to the jury.

Jurors: listens to the evidence presented and arguments made by counsel, asks questions of witnesses, and makes the final, binding sanction for the youthful offender. The verdict of the jury must be by a majority of the jurors present.

"Nothing you do for children is ever wasted."