# COLLIER COUNTY TEEN COURT

**Collier County Courthouse 3315 East Tamiami Trail, Suite 506**

**Naples, FL 34112**

**Phone: (239) 252-8562**

**Ema****il: jvelarde@ca.cjis20.org**

Dear Applicants: Welcome to Teen Court!

Teen Court is a program in which high school students volunteer their time to act as jury members, bailiffs, court clerks, and attorneys for both the State and the defendant. Teen Court volunteers represent and hear cases of juvenile offenders with charges up to third degree felonies. The Teen Court jury has the responsibility of deciding appropriate sanctions. This diversion program is based on the rationale that juveniles whose cases have been heard by their peers have a better understanding of accountability and consequences for their behavior, resulting in lower recidivism.

Attached please find a **Volunteer Application** and **Teen Court Agreement**. These forms must be read and signed by both you and your parent or legal guardian. Once completed, please return the forms by email or regular mail to my attention at the address above.

We welcome mature and responsible volunteers who want to make a difference in their community. While it is absolutely necessary that you follow the rules of Teen Court, it is also very important that you enjoy helping others and working cooperatively to accomplish the goals of Teen Court. I will share more information regarding Teen Court at the orientation and training sessions (dates will be emailed to registered volunteers).

In the meantime, please feel free to contact me with any questions at the email address or phone number listed above. Your interest and involvement in Teen Court is appreciated!

Kind Regards,

Jorge Velarde

Teen Court Program Specialist

# Collier County Teen Court Volunteer Application

## (Please type in the fields or print neatly in ink)

Name:

Last First Middle

Address: City/State/Zip Code: Volunteer’s Phone:

Cell:

Home:

**\*Email:**

*(This is where your Teen Court notifications will be sent. Please check email regularly for invites to orientation, trainings, and to participate in upcoming sessions. Assignments will be made based on email responses.)*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| DOB: | Age: | Gender: |  Grade: |
| School Attending: |  |  | Graduation Year: |

Parent/Guardian’s Name: Phone:

**Emergency Contact**

Name& Relationship: Phone:

Please mark all roles that interest you. (You may rank them in order if you prefer, with 1 highest & 4 lowest)

Juror? Clerk? Bailiff? Attorney?

If you have been a Teen Court volunteer before, when did you begin serving? (Yr/Grade): I wish to be involved because:

Volunteer Signature: Date:

How did you find out about Teen Court?

**Please save the completed application and agreement with your last name and first initial (ex: VelardeJ), and send it as an attachment to Jorge Velarde at** **jvelarde@ca.cjis20.org.** **If you prefer, you may also mail it to the Collier County Courthouse, 3315 Tamiami Trail East, Suite 506, Naples, FL 34112. Feel free to call Jorge Velarde at (239) 252-8562 with any questions. Thank you!**

# TEEN COURT VOLUNTEER AGREEMENT

## BY SIGNING BELOW, I AFFIRM, AS DOES MY PARENT/GUARDIAN, THAT I UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ASSOCIATED WITH PARTICIPATION IN TEEN COURT:

1. I am compatible with Teen Court’s purpose of promoting law-abiding behavior.
2. I will abide by the Oath of Confidentiality.
3. I commit to one school year of availability. During this time, the Teen Court Program Specialist will notify me of specific dates on which I may choose to serve.
4. I will be respectful to all participants throughout my service.
5. Whether Teen Court takes place at the courthouse or online, I will show respect for court proceedings at all times through my actions, attitude, and attire. I understand that appropriate dress is required for participation in Teen Court. Acceptable attire includes:
	* Dress pants, khakis, or dress jeans
	* Button-down dress shirt, polo-style shirt, blouses with sleeves and no exposed midriff or cleavage; shirts must be tucked in
	* Jacket (optional), tie (optional)
	* Skirts/dresses that are knee-length or longer and business-appropriate (no above-knee or tight skirts/dresses, low-cut necklines, or formal attire)
	* No shorts, hats, flip flops, baggy or athletic clothing

**Photo Release:** I understand that I/my child may be photographed and those pictures may be used for publicity purposes at the discretion of the Teen Court Office.

**The right to participate in Teen Court may be revoked at the sole discretion of the Judge and/or Program Specialist for violation of the philosophy, purpose and rules of the Teen Court program.** It is further agreed that the undersigned do hereby compromise and forever release, acquit, discharge, indemnify and covenant to hold harmless, the Collier County Teen Court and its employees and officials from any and all causes of action, claims, liability, demands, damages, costs, loss of service, medical expense and compensation, on account of or in any way growing out of any and all known and unknown personal injuries, property damage, or any other type of damage, which the undersigned may hereinafter have, individually and/or as parent/guardian or custodian of said minor, resulting or growing out of the participation of the student volunteer in the Collier County Teen Court.

**Signature of Teen Court Volunteer Signature of Parent/Guardian**

**Date: Date:**