CITY OF EL PASO
MUNICIPAL COURT
TEEN COURT PROGRAM

What is Teen Court? Teen court is a real justice program run by teens for teens. It provides juveniles, who have been charged with a misdemeanor offense, an alternative means by which to have their case heard. Teen Court also provides alternative sentence if the Juvenile is found guilty.

Want to volunteer? We invite you to come, learn, and be part of our Teen Court Program. While volunteering with us you will:

· Gain legal and judicial system knowledge
· Advance your personal and professional skills
· Be a positive role model and good influence within your peer group
· Earn volunteer hours for graduation and gain field experience
· Teen Court looks great on college and scholarship applications too!

We are looking for teen volunteers in grades 9-12 who are interested in serving in REAL court cases as an attorney, prosecutor, juror, court clerk, or bailiff.

Join Teen Court!!!

Applications can be submitted in person at 810 E. Overland or
by email at JCM@ElPasoTexas.Gov
Deadline to submit application is: **09/04/2026**

For more information, call 915-212-5843 or email JCM@ElPasoTexas.Gov

Teen Court Program 2026-2027
Youth Volunteer Application- NEW Participant

Incomplete or Late applications will NOT be considered. ONLY 30 applicants will be accepted
Completed applications can be emailed, mailed, faxed, or dropped off in person. Return Page 2-5.

Contact Information:

Email: JCM@ElPasoTexas.Gov
Address: 810 E. Overland Avenue
Tel: 915-212-0229 Fax: 915-212-0216

◇APPLICATION:

Deadline to submit application is: September 4, 2026

Youth Volunteer Information:

Name:	DOB:	Age:
Address:	City, State Zip:	
School:	Grade:	
Email:	Tel:	

Parent/Guardian Information:

Parent/Guardian 1 Name:	
Parent Email:	Tel:
Parent/Guardian 2 Name:	
Parent Email:	Tel:

Rank in order of preference, 1 = most preferred to 4= least preferred
_____Attorney _____Juror _____Bailiff _____Clerk

How did you hear about The City of El Paso Municipal Court- Teen Court Program?

_____

_____

What made you decide to volunteer with the Teen Court Program?

_____

_____

What do you hope to accomplish as a volunteer/participant?

_____

_____

Teen Court Program 2026-2027
Youth Volunteer Application- NEW Participant

Have you ever participated in a Teen Court, Mock Trial, or Debate before? If so, when and in what capacity?

_____

_____

What is your availability (i.e., Wednesday at 2 pm) to schedule a short interview with you? (If Needed)

_____

◆EXPECTATIONS:

As a member of the El Paso Municipal Court- Teen Court Program, I understand and agree to the following conditions and responsibilities:

1. Volunteers must attend **MANDATORY** Trainings/Orientation
2. Volunteers must agree to serve and participate in at least 80% of activities In-Person to include:
    - Hearings
    - Meetings
    - Community service events and learning projects
3. Members **MUST** communicate Time-Conflicts
4. Members will be **PERMANENTLY** removed from Teen Court if:
    - They are philosophically incompatible with the program's purpose
    - Breach confidentiality agreement (see Confidentiality Oath below)
    - Disrespectful to anyone involved in the Teen Court program
    - No Call/No Show to hearings (More than 2 unexcused absence)
5. Members are required to ensure that in addition to holding the youth accountable, special attention is given to community responsibility and to the victim.
6. Volunteer/parents must provide reliable transportation for all teen court hearings/meetings.
7. MUST attend Teen Court training to be held in September. Date(s) to be determined.

I understand that Teen Court takes preparation and dedication. I will be given an itinerary of scheduled court dates at the beginning of the school year. I realize how important it is to be present at all court sessions and will adhere to my commitments to the program. I realize how important it is to be present at all court sessions and I will arrive 15 minutes before the scheduled session. I also understand I will have to stay for the entire scheduled hearing.

Attendance Policy: More than 2 unexcused absence for a Teen Court session or meeting may result in being dropped from the program. You are required to communicate with Teen Court Coordinator in a timely manner regarding any possible conflicts, illnesses, or events that may result in missing a Teen Court hearing/meeting.

Youth Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Teen Court Program 2026-2027
Youth Volunteer Application- NEW Participant

◆EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Emergency Contact #1: Name	
Relationship to Student:	Phone:
Tel:	Email:
Emergency Contact #2: Name	
Relationship to Student:	Phone:
Tel:	Email:

By signing below, I state that I have read, understood and agree to partake in all **Expectations**, **Philosophy**, **Confidentiality**, and **Courtroom Decorum** (page 6 & 7) as a Teen Court Volunteer. Failure to comply with any of the above stated terms may result in the termination of my Active Status as a Teen Court Volunteer.

Youth Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

◆PHOTO/VIDEO RELEASE

Please read the following and make your selection.

I, _____, parent/guardian of_____, give to the El Paso Municipal Court-Teen Court Program permission to use my child's photograph or photographic image in official program business, including: print publications, newsletters, graduation slideshows, and for educational/instructional use, etc.

I understand that photographic images or video may be used for promotional purposes only and photo/video recordings become the property of the program. I hereby waive any right that I may have to inspect or approve the finished product. I further understand that by signing this release, I waive any and all present or future compensation rights to the use of the above stated material(s).

____ Yes, I agree with the release form.

I certify that I have full legal capacity to sign this Photo and Video Release Form on behalf of myself and my child.

Youth Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Teen Court Program 2026-2027
Youth Volunteer Application- NEW Participant

Print Youth's Name:_____ DOB: _____ Age: _____

◆VOLUNTEER AGREEMENT & INDEMNIFICATION/LIABILITY RELEASE

WHEREAS, THE CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS, hereinafter CITY, consents and agrees to permit individual mentioned above (hereinafter referred to as "VOLUNTEER"), to participate in the Teen Court Program, subject to the adherence of the VOLUNTEER to any provisions set out in the rules and regulations of the El Paso Municipal Courts Department.

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the mutual promises, covenants, and agreements set forth in this Agreement, the CITY, and VOLUNTEER agree that the CITY, its agents or employees, shall not be liable or responsible for, and shall be SAVED, HELD HARMLESS, RELEASED and INDEMNIFIED by the VOLUNTEER from and against any and all suits, actions, losses, damages, claims or liability of any character, type, or description, including but not limited to all expenses of litigation, court costs, and attorney fees for injury or death to any person, or injury to any property received or sustained by any person or persons or property arising out of, or occasioned by, directly or indirectly, the participation of the VOLUNTEER in the COMMUNITY SERVICE/TEEN COURT PROGRAMS including claims and damages arising in whole or in part from the negligence of the CITY, its agents or employees.

IT IS THE EXPRESS INTENT OF THE PARTIES TO THIS AGREEMENT THAT THE INDEMNITY PROVIDED FOR IN THIS AGREEMENT IS AN INDEMNITY EXTENDED BY THE VOLUNTEER TO INDEMNIFY AND PROTECT THE CITY FROM ANY AND ALL CLAIMS OR ACTIONS, AS SET FORTH ABOVE, OF ANY KIND, ARISING DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY FROM THE PARTICIPATION OF THE VOLUNTEER IN COMMUNITY SERVICE WORK PROGRAMS, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER SUCH CLAIMS OR ACTIONS ARE FOUNDED IN WHOLE OR IN PART UPON ALLEGED NEGLIGENCE OF CITY, ITS REPRESENTATIVES, AGENTS OR EMPLOYEES.

It is further understood and agreed that the VOLUNTEER will participate solely on a voluntary basis and not as an employee, contractor or agent of the City of El Paso or its agents or employees. Volunteer agrees that no money or any other form of compensation is to be paid to Volunteer by the City for any services performed pursuant to the terms of this contract.

In making this Agreement, the VOLUNTEER relies wholly upon his/her own judgment, belief and knowledge and has not been influenced to any extent whatsoever by any representations or statements not contained in this Agreement

Youth Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Teen Court Program 2026-2027
Youth Volunteer Application- NEW Participant

◆PHILOSOPHY:

Teen court is a voluntary program, which assist teenage offenders in assuming responsibility for their behavior through involvement in the judicial process and work in the community.

This program seeks to deter teens from future unlawful practices by bringing the teens before a jury of their peers whom then sentences them to constructive service in an agency of their choice.

Goals:

- Hold juvenile offenders responsible for their behavior and make them recognize that the consequences are a direct result of their own actions.
- Promote a positive attitude of teenagers toward authority by treating all individuals with respect.
- Provide teenage defendants with a positive experience in the judicial system, thereby reducing recidivism and helping deter the possibility of their committing other crimes.
- Offer an opportunity for young people to experience the consequences of their behavior without having a juvenile court record.
- Provide a vehicle for students interested in careers in law enforcement, law and legal services, such as court reporting, to participate in the legal process.

◆CONFIDENTIALITY

Confidentiality Oath: I solemnly swear or affirm that I will keep confidential any specific information regarding Teen Court participants. I will not divulge, by either speaking or writing, any information that comes to my knowledge during the course of a Teen Court case hearing. I will keep confidential all said proceedings which may be held in my presence. I understand this is for my protection and for the protection of other teens in the program.

You will agree NOT to share any information regarding the cases you handle.

- You may not take home, make copies, or take pictures of any case documents.
- You may not record or take pictures of anyone during a Teen Court session.
- If you know of someone violating this rule, you must notify administrator immediately.

*** Any breach of this of this statement will be grounds for REMOVAL from the program***

◆COURTROOM DECORUM:

- Action/behavior deemed disruptive is prohibited.
- Always treat others with respect. Be polite to fellow jurors, participants, and staff.
- No gum or candy is allowed in the courtroom.
- There shall be no talking during the proceedings.
- No use of phones. If you have an emergency, please be courteous and participate at another time.
- Do not make facial gestures that would be considered disruptive.
- Listen carefully to the testimony.
- Do not make jokes or laugh.
- Show respect to the courtroom officials, especially the judge.
- Always stand to address the judge and refer to them as “Your Honor”
- Use titles such as Mr., Mrs., Miss and always use last names.
- If the juvenile offender/minor makes any gesture towards you, ignore him/her. Do not feed into potential disruptive behavior. Notify administrator immediately.
- Any intimidation or threatening of Teen Court jurors, participants, and/or staff will result in immediate removal of the program.

Teen Court Program 2026-2027
Youth Volunteer Application- New Participant

If a participant is found to be dressed inappropriately, you will not be allowed to participate that day and will be sent home. Use good judgment, you can look stylish AND professional! *ALL participants are required to dress professionally during all Teen Court Sessions. This is an official court proceeding; please dress accordingly.*

Teen Court reserves the right to deny admission into the courtroom to anyone dressed inappropriately. The Coordinator or appointed representative has the final say on acceptable attire.

DRESS CODE FOR LADIES:	DRESS CODE FOR GENTLEMEN:
• Shoes: Closed-toe shoes (Flats/Heels/Boots) • Tops: Blouse, sweater, casual dress shirt, sleeveless is acceptable. • Hair: If below your ears, MUST be pulled back and out of your face • Dress/Skirts: NO more than 2 inches above the knee • Slacks/Pants: Long or Ankle Length • NO SHORTS • NO JEANS • NO STRAPLESS • NO TANKTOPS • NO TSHIRTS • NO FLIP FLOPS • NO TENNISHOES	• Shoes: Closed-toe shoes i.e., dress shoes or loafers. • Pants: Slacks, trousers, khakis. • Shirts: Collared dress shirts or polos must be tucked in. You may use a coat and tie as well, but not required. • Hair: If below your ears must be pulled back and out of your face. • NO SHORTS • NO JEANS • NO TSHIRTS • NO FLIP FLOPS • NO TENNISHOES