

The Putnam County Youth Court Program was established in 1988. Through the years we have made a difference in the lives of young people. Youth Court has become one of the fastest-growing crime prevention and intervention programs in the country.

We are committed to reducing the rate of recidivism in juvenile offenders.

Common offenses that may be handled by Youth Court include:

Assault, Criminal Mischief, Harassment, Burglary, Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance, Grand Larceny and Petit Larceny.

Youth who are referred to Youth Court are represented by a youth Defense Attorney and tried by a youth Prosecutor.

If found guilty by a Youth Judge, sentencing may be any or all of the following:

- ◆ Up to 50 Hours of Community Service
- ◆ Essay on Consequences of Actions
- ◆ Letter of Apology
- ◆ Sheriff's Department Jail Tour
- ◆ Carmel Court Observation
- ◆ Educational Courses



## PUTNAM COUNTY YOUTH BUREAU'S YOUTH COURT



This Program is Funded By:

*The New York State Office of  
Children & Family Services*

&

*The Putnam County Youth Bureau*

Program Information:

*Youth Court Office*

*Donald B. Smith Campus  
110 Old Route 6 ~ Building 3  
Carmel, NY 10512*

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## PUTNAM COUNTY YOUTH COURT



JUSTICE FOR YOUTH,  
BY YOUTH

Program  
Coordinators

**Dana Foley**  
*Youth Program  
Specialist*

**John M DeMuro**  
*Youth Bureau  
Office Clerk*

## How Does it Work?

- ◆ The juvenile offender, or defendant, is referred to Youth Court by the Putnam County Probation Department.
- ◆ Youth Court staff works with the defendant and their family to schedule a hearing in a timely manner. All proceedings are confidential.
- ◆ The hearing is conducted by youth volunteers who are trained in courtroom protocol, judicial process and the responsibilities of the various court personnel.
- ◆ The defendant meets with their youth attorney prior to the hearing to discuss the case and provide pertinent information for their defense.
- ◆ The defendant is given the opportunity to tell their story in court.
- ◆ During the hearing, Youth Court members serve as Judge, Supervisor, Defense Counsel, Prosecution, Clerk, Bailiff and Jurors.
- ◆ Defendants receive a sentence from a youth Judge, which must be completed within a certain time period.
- ◆ If the defendant successfully completes their sentence, they will avoid having a conviction on their record.
- ◆ If the defendant fails to complete the sentence within the given time period or has a new law violation, their case will be

## WHAT IS YOUTH COURT?

The Putnam County Youth Court is a Family Court diversion program aimed at reducing juvenile delinquency throughout the county.

It is a court proceeding by peers for first-time offenders between the ages of seven and seventeen who have allegedly committed misdemeanors and non-violent felonies with the approval from the County Attorney's Office.

Youth Court offers these youth an opportunity to constructively assume responsibility for their behavior and accountability to the community while enhancing their respect and understanding of the judicial process.

In addition, all youth that are processed through Youth Court are offered to train with the program and become a youth court member.

As a Youth Court member, youth get to experience the inner workings of the courtroom.

With guidance from adult professionals and other volunteers, they become aware of the complex issues surrounding behavior, laws, and the community.

In addition, the Youth Court process provides an excellent training ground for the development of analytical and verbal skills.

Youth Court cases, general meetings and training sessions are typically held Wednesday evenings at the Historic Courthouse in Carmel.



## GREAT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Youth Court volunteer members range from age's 12 to 19 and come from communities and/or school districts throughout Putnam County.

These young people complete a comprehensive ten session training program given by program staff, adult professionals and community volunteers in the field. This training is held every fall. Applications are accepted year-round.

### Key Topics Covered:

- The Law and Justice System
- Courtroom Roles & Procedures
  - Responsibility & Respect
  - Confidentiality
- Principles of Restorative Justice

### Why Join Youth Court?

- ◆ Earn community service credits
- ◆ Learn about the Law and the Justice System
  - ◆ Build personal skills
- ◆ Observe local town court proceedings as well as take a tour of the Putnam County Sheriff's Department/Jail
- ◆ Participate in real juvenile court cases
- ◆ Become involved in your community and make a difference in the lives of others!