

Proclamation

TEEN COURT DAY APRIL 11, 2019

- WHEREAS,** Colorado Springs Teen Court is celebrating 25 years of serving the at-risk youth in our community; and
- WHEREAS,** Teen Court's mission is to empower our youth through restorative justice for a brighter future; and
- WHEREAS,** Colorado Springs Teen Court, Inc. was founded in 1994 by El Paso County Bar Auxiliary volunteers working in conjunction with the El Paso County Bar Association, District and Municipal Court Judges and School District 11 to address the impact of juvenile crime in the Pikes Peak region. It was the view of the organizers that since the traditional court system was able to devote only limited time to young, first-time offenders who failed to appreciate the harm their actions caused their victims, the community and themselves and would subsequently re-offend; and
- WHEREAS,** the Teen Court model was developed to provide alternative, youth-centered sentencing options in order to repair the damage caused by current offenses and deter future criminal behavior. In Teen Court, juvenile defendants are literally judged by a jury of their adolescent peers. Through creative sentences that promote self-esteem and encourage positive life choices, former defendants are more likely to resist future opportunities to re-offend in favor of building a more promising and productive life for themselves; and
- WHEREAS,** over 9,000 at-risk teens in the last twenty-five years have walked through the doors of the Municipal Courthouse on their way to Teen Court. Only 7% of them return with a second offense; and
- WHEREAS,** Teen Court's volunteers harness peer pressure in a positive way. The impact of the program is so strong about 10% of our defendants become volunteers themselves after completing the program; and
- WHEREAS,** a total of 5,578 community service hours were donated by Teen Court student and adult volunteers during 2018; and
- WHEREAS,** Although Teen Court works in tandem with the Municipal Court system, it remains a locally-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that relies on community support to sustain its programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Richard Skorman, City Council President of Colorado Springs, Colorado do hereby proclaim April, 11 2019 as

TEEN COURT DAY

in Colorado Springs and urge celebration of this organization and its mission.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Colorado Springs to be affixed this 8th day of March, 2019.