

HARLEM
YOUTH
COURT

Application for Youth Court Members

2015-2016

What is the Harlem Youth Court?

The Harlem Youth Court trains teenagers to serve as jurors, judges and attorneys, handling real-life cases involving their peers! The goal of the Harlem Youth Court is to use positive peer pressure to ensure that young people who have committed minor offenses pay back the community and receive the help they need to avoid further involvement in the justice system. Through this experience, members develop critical thinking, leadership and public speaking skills that will benefit them now and in their futures. Youth court members determine fair and appropriate sanctions for youthful offenders. Sanctions may include community service, a letter of apology, an essay, conflict resolution workshops, or goal-setting and skill-building workshops.



How does it work?

Harlem Youth court members undergo an intensive training and are required to pass a bar exam in order to join the Harlem Youth Court. They learn to be civically engaged through their participation in trainings, which include lessons on group decision-making, the judicial process and public speaking. Youth court members also learn to appreciate the values of restorative justice and how their roles in the court serve to further this alternative approach for addressing problematic behavior, which considers an offense to be a violation of people and relationships rather than a violation of law.

Is the Harlem Youth Court right for you?

- Are you interested in learning about the law?
- Do you want to help other teens?
- Do you like working with other teens?
- Are you looking for a paid internship?

Then we're looking for YOU!



Members earn stipends for participating in the program!

What you will gain as a Youth Court Member....

- Help other teens and give back to your community
- Participation can count as community service hours
- Youth Court looks GREAT on college, scholarships, and job applications
- Receive training on professionalism and public speaking.
- Learn how the judicial process works.
- Learn terms commonly used in youth court and the justice system
- Practice all youth court roles, including Judge, Bailiff, Community Advocate, Youth Advocate, Juror and Jury Foreperson.

If you want to apply...

- Must be 14-18 years old by September 2015.
- If you are under 18 years old, you will need your parent or guardian's permission to join.

Responsibilities:

- **Summer Training:** You must be able to attend training during the summer
- **School Year:** You must be able to attend hearings two days a week from 4:00 -7pm.
- Complete community service at least once a month.

Compensation: Upon completing a two- month training and passing the bar exam, inducted youth court members will receive a monthly stipend.

Learn more about the internship by

- Checking out our website: www.harlemyouthcourt.org
- Attending an info session: dates listed on website
- Liking our page on facebook:
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Harlem-Youth-Court/197600686939623>)
- Following us on twitter: <http://twitter.com/#!/HarlemYouthCrt>

HOW TO APPLY

If you want your application to be considered for the 2015- 2016 cohort, please submit it by March 31, 2015. If you would like further information, feel free to reach out to the Harlem Youth Court. You can mail, fax, email it, or fill out a copy online.

Mail:	Harlem Youth Court Harlem Community Justice Center 170 E 121 st Street New York, NY 10035
Fax:	(212) 828-7416 To: Harlem Youth Court
Email:	HYC@courtinnovation.org
Online:	www.harlemyouthcourt.org
DEADLINE:	MARCH 31, 2015 If you would like further information, feel free to reach out to the Harlem Youth Court. You can mail, fax, email it, or fill out a copy online.

For more information: Call 212-360-4983 or email hyc@courtinnovation.org

HARLEM YOUTH COURT APPLICATION

Please fill out the whole application neatly with a black or blue pen or type your answers.
Do not use pencil.

Part I: Personal Information

Name: _____
First Middle Last

Address: _____
Street Apt. #

Neighborhood City Zip Code

Gender: _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Phone number(s): () _____ Home

() _____ Cell phone

Email address (print clearly): _____@_____

What is the best way to contact you? Phone Email

Parent/Legal Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Phone Number: _____

Part II: School

Are you in school? Yes No

School Name: _____

School Address: _____

What time are you dismissed from school during the school-year? _____

Grade in 2014-15: 8th 9th 10th 11th 12th GED program College

What languages do you speak fluently?

Please list any special skills or talents:

How did you hear about the Harlem Youth Court? _____

If from a Harlem Youth Court member or alum, who? _____

Part III: Availability

Can you attend training during the summer?

Yes No Maybe/Don't know

Can you come to hearings two days a week from 4:30 – 7:00 pm during the school year in East Harlem (170 E 121st Street, New York, NY 10035)

Yes No Maybe/Don't know

Do you have any commitments that might interfere with your ability to fulfill your commitment as a Youth Court member? (ie. household chores, family responsibilities or jobs)

Do you have any plans for the summer?

Have you ever held a job before? _____ Do you have a job now? _____

Please list the date and time of any afterschool activities you expect to be involved in during the school year:

Have you ever been arrested, on probation, or previously a court involved youth?

Yes No

If yes, what was the offense? What did you learn from the experience?

References:

If you are selected for an interview, would you be able to provide us references of adults/teachers/community members who have interacted with you?

Yes No

Part IV: ESSAYS. You may write your answers on loose leaf paper or type your responses on a separate piece of paper. **In the essay section, please answer the questions in full complete sentences. The three essay questions require a minimum response of 300 words. Be sure to check for grammar and spelling before submitting your application.**

1. Why are you interested in joining the Harlem Youth Court?

2. You are a jury member in the case explained below. As a jury member, what sort of sanctions or service recommendations would you give to the respondent (Nicole A.) in order to restore the harm to the community and to keep her out of trouble?

On Friday, December 11, 2014 at 12:00 pm, Nicole A. was arrested for shoplifting at H & M. She was arrested with three of her older female friends. Nicole is 14 years old and attends Manhattan Tech HS. She lives with her younger sister and mother in East Harlem. During the time of the incident, Nicole should have been in school and she has a history of truancy. During the hearing, Nicole states that she has dreams of one day pursuing a career in the medical field. She also states that she has nothing to do after school and often ends up hanging out with the wrong crowd. When the community advocate asks Nicole how her offense affected the community, she said she did not know how it did.

3. Anything else you would like us to know?

I hereby certify that the information provided in this application is true, correct and complete. If selected as a Harlem Youth Court Member, I understand that any misstatement of facts on this application may result in dismissal from the program.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Thank you for applying!

Thank you for filling out the Harlem Youth Court application. You will hear back from us shortly. In the meantime, email us at hyc@courtinnovation.org if you have any questions. We will send out decisions regarding interviews during the last week of April.