



A PROCLAMATION

Simply put, teen courts are powerful tools and methods of diversion that are proven to reduce recidivism. Local governments across the United States have successfully launched such courts as an alternative for non-violent juvenile defenders. Instead of appearing in a formal judicial setting before a judge, the juvenile defendant in a teen court appears in a mock court involving his or her peers. Student volunteers assume the roles of judge, attorneys, bailiff, and jurors.

Teen courts offer an array of benefits. First, such courts can help ensure that young offenders are held accountable for their illegal behavior, even when their offenses are relatively minor. Second, a teen court may move young defenders from arrest to sanctions within a matter of days, which is different than traditional juvenile courts which typically take months. Third, since teen courts rely heavily on adult and youth volunteers, they handle a substantial number of offenders at a relatively low cost to the community. And finally, a teen court may positively affect the entire community by increasing public appreciation of the legal system, increasing civic engagement, and by encouraging greater respect for the law.

Today, the Arizona Teen Court Association is “celebrating youth, showcasing youth, and inspiring youth” to continue serving their communities as judges, attorneys, and members of juries. Attendees will attend workshops and lectures that will enhance their knowledge of our legal system.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KATE GALLEGOS, Mayor of the City of Phoenix, Arizona, in accordance with the law, do hereby proclaim November 8, 2019 as

ARIZONA TEEN COURT ASSOCIATION DAY

in the City of Phoenix and encourage all residents to recognize and appreciate the potential offered by teen courts.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kate Gallegos". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.