



Cumberland County Board of Juvenile Probation

Commonwealth of PA . Court of Common Pleas . 9th Judicial District Cumberland County . PA Juvenile Division

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Volunteers Needed for Cumberland County Juvenile Probation Youth Aid Program

"The panel, comprised of volunteers, provides a great opportunity to become involved in the future of our youth."

Carlisle, PA – The Cumberland County Juvenile Probation Department needs 12 volunteers to serve on its Youth Aid Panel, a diversionary program for first-time juvenile offenders accused of certain non-violent crimes. The panel, comprised of volunteers, provides a great opportunity to become involved in the future of our youth. It also gives offenders the opportunity to accept responsibility for their actions; learn from their mistakes; and have their record expunged. The panel will develop contracts for juvenile offenders based on case needs for rehabilitation and hear cases that feature low and moderate risk-level clients. The cases are based on referrals for services from local police departments and Magisterial District Judges.

The Cumberland County Youth Aid Panel is designed to uphold our statewide mandated mission of balanced and restorative justice by providing community safety, accountability and competency development to the youth, families and community we serve. Residents who would like to volunteer must be able to commit to the program for at least one year and:

- Undergo 16 hours of training over five weeks
- Learn about the Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice System, the Youth Aid Panel process and adhere to the confidentiality policy, conflict resolution and victim awareness
- Be 21 years of age
- Pass criminal background and child abuse clearances

Volunteers are needed in the Camp Hill, Carlisle, Enola, Hampden Township, Mechanicsburg, New Cumberland, and Shippensburg areas. Training sessions will be held every Thursday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. beginning May 1, 2025, with a panel observation on Tuesday, May 13. Once the Youth Aid Panel volunteers are fully trained and sworn in, they will meet once or twice per month at their assigned location.

Since 2003, over 4,550 juveniles have successfully completed the Youth Aid Panel. Juveniles have completed 65,616 hours of community service and over \$79,818 in restitution has been collected for victims.



Panelists have contributed over 34,000 hours of their time to the Youth Aid Panel. This program has grown to 18 panels, serving the communities throughout Cumberland County.

To request an application, residents can contact Lisa Harrison at 717. 240.5400 or by email Lmharrison@cumberlandcountypa.gov.

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