

Contact Us!

Minimum Requirement To Become A Panelist

- Participate in a 15 hour YAP training course
- Attend monthly meetings
- Commit to a minimum of one year of service as a YAP volunteer

YAP Volunteer Ineligibility

- Involved in law enforcement
- A school official
- Seek or presently hold an elected or appointed public office
- Have a criminal record

TO APPLY

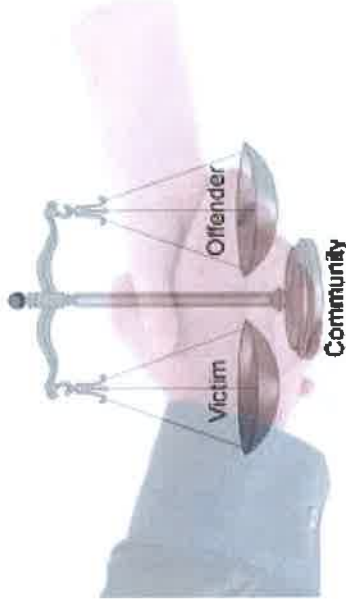
Please use the application form located on the website at www.montcopa.org

Office of the District Attorney Montgomery County PA

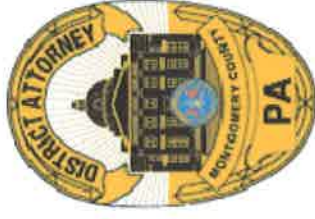
YOUTH AID PANEL

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
JUVENILE DIVISION
ATTN: YOUTH AID PANEL
P.O. BOX 311 NORRISTOWN PA 19404-0311
PHONE: 610-551-6628
DA.YAP@montcopa.org

A Fresh Start
Youth Accountability
Competency Development
Community Participation



Risa Vetri Ferman
Montgomery County District Attorney



A RESTORATIVE JUSTICE APPROACH TO THE
JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

What is a Youth Aid Panel (YAP)?

YAP is a restorative justice program of the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office. The program provides a second chance for first time juvenile offenders to be accountable for their actions to the victim and community, while preventing future offenses.

The YAP program is accessible to every police department in Montgomery County. There are approximately 600 participating juveniles annually. Since the inception of the program in 2000, 95-98% of juveniles have successfully completed and only 5-7% of juveniles have recidivated.

How does it work?

The YAP program is an alternative to Juvenile Court or District Court. Juveniles are eligible to participate upon law enforcement referral. Juveniles and their families meet with trained community volunteer panelists. The panel decides an appropriate resolution for the juvenile tailored specifically to each case which facilitates accountability and restorative justice.

Required resolutions with the juvenile may include: educational programs, community service, restitution, apology letter, meeting with the victim in the Victim Offender Conferencing Program (VOC), and other alternatives.

Benefits of Youth Aid Panel

- Offers juveniles the opportunity to avoid a record for their offense
- Links the juvenile to the community through a constructive resolution
- Gives the victim a voice in the process and provides an avenue for restitution
- Affords an alternative to the juvenile justice system at a minimal cost to the juvenile and families of Montgomery County
- Increases awareness of community resources and available services

The Panel

The panel members are volunteers serving the community. The panel usually meets once a month. There are over 200 volunteers actively serving on approximately 41 panels in Montgomery County communities.

Panel members have the opportunity to experience a sense of satisfaction by helping juveniles to earn a second chance and become more connected to the community and receive a second chance .



How to become a YAP volunteer

Volunteers must be:

- A United States citizen
- At least 18 years of age
- A resident of Montgomery County for at least one year
- Screened by the District Attorney's Office for criminal history and child abuse

YAP Community Service Providers

501 (c)(3) non-profit organizations that are interested in becoming a Community Service provider for YAP must agree to:

- Supervise the juvenile during his/her period of service
- Keep record of time
- Report any problems to YAP
- Maintain confidentiality
- Sign a Job Site Contract form