

LUZERNE COUNTY



YOUTH AID PANEL VOLUNTEER INFORMATION GUIDE

MISSION STATEMENT:

Through this program, it is our goal to provide a community-based alternative to traditional case processing of juvenile offenders. While the program is designed to help the youth, a key element is to achieve their understanding of the seriousness of their actions and the effects that their crime has on themselves, their family, their victim and the community. The program is committed to the development of competencies to enable children to become responsible and productive members of the community.

VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be 18 years of age or older
- Reside in Luzerne County
- Complete Mandatory Training
- Participate in Annual Trainings
- Obtain Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Record Check
- Obtain Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance
- Obtain FBI Fingerprint Clearance (if you have not lived in PA for the last ten years)
- Attend 75% of scheduled panels throughout the year

THOSE EXCLUDED FROM SERVING ON PANELS:

- Law Enforcement Officers
- School Administrators
- Elected Officials
- Candidates for Elected Office
- Employees of Luzerne County Juvenile Probation
- Individuals with a Criminal Record Offense Committed within the Past Seven (7) Years

TIME COMMITMENT:

All Youth Aid Panels are scheduled to meet once a month, on either Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or a Thursday, beginning at 6:00pm. Volunteers are sent the schedule via email five (5) days prior to their panel in order to ensure proper attendance. Volunteers will be notified if the panel needs to be canceled or rescheduled due to inclement weather. While it is expected that volunteers attend 75% of scheduled panels throughout the year, we understand that unforeseen circumstances do occur. If a conflict were to arise, please contact the Youth Aid Panel Coordinator, Kristen Zearfoss, at 570-820-6335 or Kristen.zearfoss@luzernecounty.org.