

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Pima County Teen Court Wins National Award**

SAINT PAUL, Minn. (January 20, 2015) — Pima County Teen Court in Tucson, Ariz, are receiving a national award for their leadership and service. The Youth Leadership for Service-Learning Excellence Award, given by the National Youth Leadership Council with support from UPS, will be presented to members of the Pima County Teen Court during the 26th Annual National Service-Learning Conference® on April 10, 2015 in Washington D.C.

“NYLC is honored to present the Youth Leadership for Service-Learning Excellence Award to the Pima Teen Court,” said NYLC CEO Kelita Bak. “These young people are taking on roles that position them as leaders within their communities while also building the trust and respect of the young people who are struggling within the penal system.”

The Pima County Teen Court (PCTC) is a sentencing option for 12-17 year-old delinquent youths arrested for first, second, and third time misdemeanors who have pled guilty. These teens choose to be sentenced by a jury of their peers instead of going through the Pima County Juvenile Court system. All participants in the courtroom are teens, except for the adult judge, who is a professional. The success of Teen Court is directly attributed to positive peer pressure and parental involvement in the program. Workshops, as part of the sentencing option, are aimed at reducing shoplifting, substance use, and domestic violence, and increasing family communication.

PCTC was founded in response to community concerns about the impact of high local juvenile crime and recidivism rates on both the community and the young people who became involved with the juvenile justice system. Teen Court seeks to empower youth themselves to take an active and educated role in addressing juvenile crime.

The Youth Leadership for Service-Learning Excellence Award recognizes kindergarten-through-12th grade service-learning programs and projects that demonstrate outstanding youth leadership. It is awarded annually during the National Service-Learning Conference.

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**About NYLC**

At the National Youth Leadership Council, we strive for a world where all young people are valued and called on to lead. With passion, creativity, and ingenuity, young people can address world issues while strengthening academic and learning outcomes through service-learning. To that end, we provide programs and services that **develop** young leaders, **support** educators, and **advance** the field of service-learning. Visit [www.nylc.org](http://www.nylc.org) to learn more about NYLC and service-learning.

**About the National Service-Learning Conference**

The National Service-Learning Conference brings together youth and adults from across the country and around the world for three and a half days of learning, inspiration, and connection for those who view

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youth as solutions for stronger communities and schools. For more information, visit  
[www.nylc.org/conference](http://www.nylc.org/conference).