

My name is Courtney Enright and I have been a member of Ketchikan Youth Court for the past seven years, further I've been involved with the Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee as a youth member, the past two years. I have found the youth court programs to be a positive experience for me, personally, but also for the other youth involved. Youth court programs provide an amazing opportunity for youth to learn about our judicial system, be in a position of responsibility. It has greatly impacted my personal and professional growth in a positive manner. It has meant a great deal to me to be able to be a part of changing the path of many of my peers. The numbers speak clearly - only 10.6% of youth court defendants reoffend as opposed to 23% that reoffend at district court. The results are clear - peer involvement is an effective deterrent to recidivism. Youth court programs benefit the individual communities in which they reside as well as the state as an entirety, through reducing crime rates, saving the courts and the State of Alaska over \$10,000 per client that utilizes our program, and providing thousands of hours of community service.

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