
Courthouse Tours

Utah has more than 40 courthouses located throughout the state. Court tours are an effective way for students to see first hand how the judiciary operates. With advance notice, students can often observe a court case and see attorneys arguing their case.

When time allows, the judge will speak to the students and answer questions.

Courts are typically in session from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with a noon recess generally planned from noon to 1:30 p.m. Most proceedings in District Court are open to the public. It is helpful if students have a working knowledge of judicial vocabulary prior to observing a court case. The booklet "Your Day in Court," includes a glossary that is a helpful reference tool.

In order to have a meaningful experience, students should be prepared to stay for one hour.

If possible, please schedule your visit three to four weeks in advance. The court will need the following information to better prepare for the tour: school name, school district, phone number, teacher's name, number of students (preferably no more than 30 students),

grade level, and class name. In addition, list the type of case the students are interested in observing, e.g. criminal or civil. You may wish to submit questions in advance for the judge to consider.

Submit your request via e-mail to nancyv@email.utcourts.gov.

Please review courtroom behavior, dress, and demeanor with students before entering the courthouse.

For More Information

For more information on judicial outreach opportunities, please go to the court's website at www.utcourts.gov and click on the "Educators" link.



Published July 2009 by

The Administrative Office of the Courts,
450 South State Street, P.O. Box 140241,
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(801) 578-3800.

For more information, go to
www.utcourts.gov

Judicial Outreach Programs



Utah's courts are
committed to open,
fair, and independent
justice.

Court Materials

The Utah State Courts have a variety of resources to inform students and the public about the courts, including brochures, videos, and presentations.

BROCHURES

The following brochures are available on the court's website at www.utcourts.gov or by contacting the court's Public Information Office at (801) 578-3994 or e-mail nancyv@email.utcourts.gov.

Appellate Courts-provides an overview of the Utah Court of Appeals and Utah Supreme Court and the types of cases each court hears.

Annual Report-highlights select court programs, including statistical information on court cases.

Selected to Serve-provides an introduction to jury service in Utah.

Juvenile Courts-provides an overview of child welfare and delinquency cases.

Overview of the Utah Judiciary-provides a comprehensive look at what courts do, how Utah courts are structured, how judges are selected, and the administrative side of the courts.

State of the Judiciary Address-a copy of the speech delivered by Chief Justice of the Utah Supreme Court each year to members of the legislature.

VIDEOS

The court has produced the following videos that provide an in-depth look at court-related topics. Videos are free of charge. Contact the court's Public Information Office at (801) 578-3994 or e-mail nancyv@email.utcourts.gov.

Choose Freedom-a 12-minute video focused on kids and the law. Reviews what happens in Juvenile Court when youth are accused of breaking the law.

The Judges-a 16-minute video that provides an overview of what a judge's job involves, including answers to frequently asked questions.

Parent to Parent-a 15-minute video geared towards parents. Reviews what happens in Juvenile Court when youth are accused of breaking the law.

Selected to Serve-a 12-minute video that reviews how the jury process works, including stories from individual jurors.

Additional Videos-The Utah State Bar has a selection of videos that focus on

historical cases such as *Marbury v. Madison* and *Brown v. Board of Education*. For more information, go to www.utahbar.org.

Curriculum

A manual for teachers and students titled "Your Day in Court," is posted on the court's website at www.utcourts.gov/knowcts/dayincourt. The manual is a study guide targeted to elementary and secondary school students and includes answers to frequently asked questions, the trial process, crimes and punishments, and courthouse behavior.

Presentations and Speakers

Judges and court executives are available to speak to students and community groups on a variety of court-related topics, including "Who wants to be a prisoner?" and "Patriotism and Rights." In addition, a fun, hands-on way for students to learn how a courtroom operates is to hold a mock trial either in the classroom or in the courtroom. A judge will preside over a fictional case such as *The Big Bad Wolf v. the Three Little Pigs*; *Wicked Witch v. Snow White*; or *The Three Bears v. Goldilocks* while students play the roles of attorneys, defendants, and witnesses.
