

HAVE A GOOD REASON FOR MISSING SCHOOL?

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

A parent or guardian may seek an excused absence from school for his/her child. A school has the right to accept or deny an application for an excused absence.

VALID EXCUSES FOR MISSING SCHOOL:

- Sickness - you may be required to have documentation from your doctor.
- Medical treatment, including mental health
- Religious holidays

INVALID REASONS FOR MISSING SCHOOL:

- Staying home to babysit
- Work
- Being tired
- Travel/vacation
- Needed at home
- Cold weather
- Missed bus
- Needing a language interpreter

TREEHOUSE ON-GOING PROGRAMS

For Students 12-17 years old

- **SUPPORT GROUPS**

One night a week, we create a safe space for teens to talk about what's really going on in their lives. At TreeHouse, students know they are loved, accepted, and supported — no matter what!

- **MENTORING**

Students have the opportunity to get connected with a caring adult that wants to listen, connect, and just be there! Enjoy a trip to Starbucks, how about lunch, a ball game, need homework help or whatever!

- **NEXT**

We offer personalized coaching to help students create an educational or vocational track for their future.

- **TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES**

Throughout the year, we provide opportunities beyond our weekly programs for teens to have fun, learn about themselves and build meaningful relationships and grow. We offer retreats, service projects and social activities.

TreeHouse P.A.T.H.

Promoting Attendance Through Hope
Program

Truancy Diversion and Prevention Services

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This program is a collaboration between:

- ⇒ **TREEHOUSE of Scott County**
- ⇒ **Scott County Truancy Team**



TREEHOUSE

ENDING HOPELESSNESS AMONG TEENS

P.A.T.H. Diversion Services

- Students are referred to TreeHouse Diversion Services by the Scott County Truancy Team only.
- TreeHouse staff will complete an intake within two (2) business days of receiving a truancy referral from the county. Then proceed with contacting parent/guardian to gain the written authorizations needed to work with the student to develop an individualized support plan (ISO) to improve school attendance.
- School Collaboration is vital. TreeHouse staff will inform school personnel that youth is receiving truancy diversion services, work with the school to identify barriers to attending school, maintain communication, and engage with the school to explore resources to assist the student.
- TreeHouse support groups, one-on-one mentoring and group activities are widely used as a vital part of the program.

KNOW THE LAW!!

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED

A child between the ages of 7 and 17 years of age must attend school. At the age of 17, a youth cannot drop out of school without the permission of their parents. Written forms must be completed at a school meeting.

P.A.T.H. Prevention Services

- Schools may refer students 12-17 years old that have 3 or more unexcused absences and reside in Scott County. School must notify the parent/guardian that the student is being referred to TreeHouse Prevention services.
- Schools may contact TreeHouse P.A.T.H. Program Coordinators to refer a student directly by phone, email, or fill out an online form at our website.
- This prevention approach is to improve school attendance by recognizing students earlier that may be struggling; with the goal of preventing the filing of formal truancy with Scott County.
- TreeHouse staff will contact the parent/guardian, within two business days once the referral has been made, then proceed in obtaining a release of information and starting the process of identifying the barriers that may have contributed to the student's school attendance.
- If for some reason the parent/guardian cannot be reached, after 10 days; TreeHouse staff will notify the school. Please note: If a student reaches seven (7) unexcused absences WITHOUT participating in P.A.T.H. Prevention Services, they will be referred to school to go through the formal truancy process.
- Prevention Services are ongoing and will focus on assessing student and family strengths, needs, risk factors and developing a plan to improve school attendance. TreeHouse support groups, mentoring, and group activities are often used as a vital part of the plan.

<https://thewellym.com/p-a-t-h-program/>

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Find a caring adult who can help you...share with them your struggles with school. Talk to someone.

It is your responsibility to get to school daily and be on time.

Complete your homework daily

Know & follow school policies and rules

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Talk and listen to your student - address the reasons for missing school

Share with your student just how important school is to their future.

Help with homework questions or find someone to assist if needed.

Have a set bedtime and morning routine. Possibly, get your student an alarm clock.

Communicate with the school and their attendance policy. Don't cover for your student's unexcused absences.

Get your student services if problems interfere with school attendance.

SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES

Provide a program or schedule that meets the student's educational needs.

Address problems identified as barriers to the student's ability to attend and learn.

Maintain accurate attendance records and document communication with parents/guardians and student about attendance.