

VISUAL



Left: Two prosecutors teach legal knowledge to primary school students through a moot court at a legal education base for juveniles in Yiyuan county, Shandong province, on Sept 5.
Right: The two prosecutors hold a legal knowledge quiz session for students at the education base on Sept 5. PHOTOS BY ZHAO DONGSHAN AND YOU KUIKUI / FOR CHINA DAILY



‘Extracurricular teachers’ guide ‘lost’ teens, raising their legal awareness

By ZHAO DONGSHAN and YOU KUIKUI in Zibo, Shandong
For China Daily

In the heart of the Yimeng Mountains in Yiyuan county, Shandong province, a group of dedicated prosecutors from the Yiyuan county people’s procuratorate are affectionately known as “extracurricular teachers” by the local community.

These prosecutors tirelessly traverse the mountainous terrain, offering guidance, care and legal education to vulnerable young people.

In 2022, the procuratorate established a studio with a specialized team, which consisted of experienced and dedicated legal professionals with a deep understanding of juvenile justice.

It aims to provide comprehensive judicial protection for minors.

To effectively rehabilitate and educate those who were once youth offenders, the prosecutors have implemented a personalized mentoring program.

They partner with psychological counselors to visit the homes of these young people, providing patient counseling, comprehensive legal education, and engaging in in-depth communication.

Employing a nurturing and supportive approach, the prosecutors guide these “lost” teenagers toward a brighter path.

They also lead them on excursions to local streets, communities and public welfare activities, aiming to fill their hearts with positivity.

In the past three years, the team has successfully mentored 52 young people who were juvenile offenders, helping 23 of them gain admission to universities and 14 secure employment.

Beyond individual mentoring, the prosecutors are committed to fostering a culture of law-abiding citizens.

They regularly serve as “legal vice-principals” at numerous schools, voluntarily delivering legal education to children.

These “extracurricular teachers” actively participate in “law in schools, law in villages, and law in communities” initiatives, bringing legal knowledge directly to the young people.

Further, the prosecutors conduct a variety of engaging legal education activities, allowing children to learn about the law in an entertaining and interactive way.

Over the past three years, the prosecutors have held hundreds of legal awareness sessions, reaching over 20,000 children.

Zhang Tiantian, a prosecutor who has dedicated years to protecting minors, shared her commitment: “Teachers impart cultural knowledge and nurture talent. As ‘extracurricular teachers’, we aspire to use our efforts to ensure that more children can flourish under the protection of the law. This is our greatest wish.”



A prosecutor gives a lesson in legal awareness to students on the campus of Luyang Primary School in Yiyuan on Sept 4.

PROSECUTORS MENTOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN YIYUAN



From left: A prosecutor talks with a student during a legal knowledge lesson in Zhongzhuang Township Central Primary School in the county on Sept 4. Two prosecutors share snacks with students after holding a lesson at an orchard in Xiaochun village in Yiyuan on April 17.



From left: A student gives a red scarf to a prosecutor after a legal knowledge promotion session in Zhongzhuang Township Central Primary School on Sept 4. A prosecutor plays with two students after a home visit in Longziyu village in Yiyuan on April 21.

