

Volunteer Information

We welcome the opportunity for community members to learn and become active members in the Teen Court process. Teen volunteer positions are bailiff, clerk, jury member, and attorney. Adult volunteer positions are jury monitor, courtroom monitor, and exit interviewer.

Teen Court sessions are held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Volunteers should arrive to the Wayne County Courthouse at 5:30pm.

Teen Court of Wayne County is a Juvenile Crime Prevention Council program, sponsored by Communities Supporting Schools of Wayne County, Inc. and funded by the NC Dept. of Public Safety, Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice and United Way.



Communities Supporting Schools of Wayne County, Inc.

Selena Bennett
Executive Director
sbennett@waynecss.org

BreAnna VanHook
Program Director
teencourt@waynecss.org

Contact us:

Phone: 919.735.1432

Fax: 919.734.9994

We are located on the second floor of the Wayne County Chamber of Commerce at 308 N. William Street Goldsboro, NC 27530

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 11557
Goldsboro, NC 27532



waynecss.org



TEEN COURT

OF WAYNE COUNTY

“Teens Who Make a Difference”

TEEN COURT What is it?

Teen Court is a diversion program designed for youth offenders, ages 12 - 18 and are still enrolled in school. Youth make restitution for their offense through community service, jury duty, and educational opportunities. Participation in the program is voluntary and based on the understanding that the defendant must admit guilt.

The program is designed to inform youth offenders about the court system, and to allow them to explain their involvement in the offense to a group of their peers in a court setting. Teen Court demonstrates the influence of positive peer pressure and allows young people to realize they can play a meaningful role in reducing crime their community.

Program Goals:

- Reduce the likelihood of youth reoffending.
- Minimize negative labeling of youth offenders.
- Require young people to take responsibility for their actions.
- Provide restitution to the victims and the community.
- Allow the community to have an active role in addressing youth crime.
- Educate youth about the criminal justice system.

How does it work?

The process begins when the Teen Court coordinator receives a referral. Referrals to the program are received from Juvenile Court Counselors, Student Resource Officers, and District Court. Once the coordinator deems the case appropriate for Teen Court, an intake appointment with the defendant and his or her parent or guardian is scheduled. At the intake appointment, the program guidelines are explained and a Teen Court hearing is scheduled.

At the Teen Court hearing, the facts are presented to the courtroom by teen attorneys, and the defendant is called to the stand to answer questions regarding the offense. The teen jury, which includes volunteers and past defendants, then retires to the deliberation room to decide on a constructive sentence. The jury then issues a constructive sentence to the defendant and he or she has ninety days to complete the sanctions.

Upon successful completion of the constructive sentence, an exit appointment is scheduled. After the exit appointment is completed, the coordinator notifies the referring agency, and the charge is dismissed.



Who attends TEEN COURT?

Teen Court consists of teen and adult volunteers, defendants and their parent/guardian, and an adult judge. Teen volunteers are from middle and high schools, and serve as bailiff, clerk, jury members, and attorneys. The adult judge is typically a local attorney or judge. Other adult volunteers serve as jury monitors and exit interviewers.

Who benefits & how?

The defendants, volunteers, and community all stand to benefit from Teen Court.

DEFENDANTS BENEFIT BY...

The opportunity to learn positive behavioral patterns. Admitting their guilt, serving their sentence, and having their criminal charge dismissed. Having a second chance to become a valuable member of the community.

VOLUNTEERS BENEFIT BY...

Learning how to work together as community members in the democratic process. Being able to look into future career possibilities and "hands on" experience in our legal system.

THE COMMUNITY BENEFITS BY...

Having youth get an early preview into what breaking the law can lead to. Saving hundreds of dollars in juvenile and district court expenses.