



sumter
county
teen
court

What Is Teen Court ?

An “Alternative” to Prosecution.



It's a “PROGRAM” for first time offenders.

Juvenile defendants admit their guilt and agree to have their case sentenced by a jury of their peers.

Their peers are “STUDENT VOLUNTEERS”

10-18 years of age

How Does Teen Court Work ?

It works with Students who volunteer their time in an effort to interrupt criminal behavior in kids who got in trouble for the first time.



It works with Adults who volunteer their time to work with the volunteer students in their efforts to help make a difference in their community.

Teen Court Volunteers Are

STUDENTS WHO PERFORM THE
COURTROOM ROLES



Prosecuting &
Defense Attorneys

& Jurors



Bailiffs

Court
Clerks



Attorney Roles

Prosecuting Attorneys present facts that aggravate the case or makes it worse.



Defense Attorneys present facts that mitigate or lesson the effects of the crime.

Bailiffs Role



The Bailiff administers the oath of confidentiality to all jury members, volunteers & spectators.



Secures defendant in the witness box.



Keeps order in the courtroom.

And, assists the Attorneys, Clerks & the Judge.

Clerks Role

The Clerk records the names of
all participants as the
“Official Record”.

Swears in the Jury.



Reads the case facts to the jury.

And records the sentence of the jury as the *“Official Record”*.

Jury Role

The jury includes
STUDENT VOLUNTEERS
along with **DEFENDANTS**
who are serving jury duty.



They **LISTEN CLOSELY** as the student attorneys present their case by asking the defendant questions.

Then, as a group, they determine a fair & just punishment and the judge asks the foreperson to explain to the defendant why they reached that sentence.

Benefits to the Defendant



The sentence is determined by a jury of their PEERS rather than in Juvenile Delinquency Court by the Judge.

By successfully completing all the sanctions that the students give them... the State Attorney DROPS THE CHARGES.

The defendant will not be “JUDGED GUILTY” in the Juvenile Delinquency Court System.

And, the defendant avoids having a criminal Record.

Benefits to Student Volunteers



Student volunteers get HANDS ON EXPERIENCE with the legal system while practicing in a real courtroom.

COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS ARE TRACKED and available to you anytime. It helps by showing you are civic minded when looking for a job, going for scholarships and applying for entrance into colleges.

TRAINING IS PROVIDED by professionals such as real Judges, Lawyers, Police & Clerks who help train volunteers with the skills for these positions.

When Is Teen Court ?



5:00 PM.....TWICE A MONTH.

First Tuesday:

910 North Main Street, Bushnell Room 142

Third Thursday:

100 North Main Street, Wildwood City Hall

Teen Court in Action

The Bailiff administers the “Oath of Confidentiality”



YOU CAN TALK ABOUT TEEN COURT ...

JUST NOT “WHO” GOT SENTENCED !!!

THE JUDGE

- Addresses the volunteers, defendants & audience



He or She is the only “Adult” who plays a role in the court process.

THE COURT CLERK

- Swears in the Jury



HEARING THE CASE

The “Prosecution Attorney” presents the case...



THEN...

The “Defense Attorney” presents the case...



And The Jury Deliberates



After the Jury decides the sentence....

The Jury "Foreperson" reads the sentence



And "Court" is dismissed

THE SENTENCE IS COMPLETED



You perform your sanctions and go on with your life without any further penalties.

There is “NO JUDGMENT OF GUILT”

thanks to volunteers!!!

The bad decision made originally now becomes a positive thing and does not effect your future.

