

What is Teen Court?

Teen Court offers eligible youth an opportunity to receive a fair and meaningful sentence from a jury of their peers. This experience provides youth with an alternative to the traditional court system, and an opportunity to expunge their record while avoiding the fine.

Why a Teen Court?

Teen Court offers eligible youth an opportunity to take responsibility for their actions. It provides positive peer pressure with community based consequences.

Who is Eligible?

Teen Court serves youth ages 12 to 17 who commit misdemeanor crimes or ordinance violations, such as:

- Shoplifting/retail theft
- Disorderly conduct
- Tobacco violations
- Underage alcohol violations
- Marijuana and drug violation
- Truancy ordinance violations
- Trespassing
- Any other violations the Court or other agencies feel may be appropriate for Teen Court.

How Does Teen Court Operate?

1. The offender appears before a panel of teen jurors.
2. Panelists have received specialized training in court procedures.
3. A parent or legal guardian is required to attend the session with the offender.
4. Offender must admit to the violation offense.
5. Panelists question the offender and parent or guardian to determine why the offense occurred and determine the most effective consequences.
6. Panelists decide the consequences which may include essays, community service, apology letter or other innovative sanctions.
7. A coordinator monitors the offender's performance of the sentencing guidelines.
8. Offender pays a small fee towards the cost of Teen Court.
9. All procedures are confidential.
10. If offender successfully completes the work, the case is closed without the offender receiving a conviction record.
11. If offender is unsuccessful in completing the sentence, the offender will be returned to the referring agency.

Who Benefits from Teen Court?

Juvenile offenders who successfully complete their Teen Court sentence will have a chance to get the charge removed from his or her record, and will not be required to pay the fine. Youth are also given an opportunity for a REAL second chance, a chance to prove that mistakes can be turned into positive choices. The juvenile becomes responsible for his/her actions.

Parents of the offender are no longer held totally accountable. The juvenile becomes responsible for his or her actions.

The community receives the benefits from projects and community service work. Citizens are able to see teens being held accountable for their actions.

Youth Volunteers gain a sense of responsibility as they encourage peers to stop behaviors that reflect on all teens. They also get a chance to participate in the juvenile justice system and examine possible career opportunities.

Adult Volunteers are given the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of young people.



"The mission of the
Vernon County Teen Court
is to offer youth an
opportunity to take
responsibility for their
actions and provide
positive peer pressure
with community based
consequences as an
alternative for juveniles
at risk."

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and Americans with Disabilities (ADA) requirements.

Funding provided in part by
Vernon County Board of Supervisors



Teen Court

Vernon
County



Teen Court Coordinator
Jonel Kiesau
608-606-4122
P.O. Box 272
Hillsboro WI 54634

teencourt@vernoncounty.org
www.vernoncounty.org/teencourt