

Learn, Have Fun,
&
Find Your Passion

What is Teen Court?

The Royse City Teen Court is a diversionary program designed to provide community youth offenders who commit minor offenses with a second chance and opportunity to learn from their mistakes without imposition of a juvenile record. Instead of appearing in Court before a Judge, juvenile offenders appear before a jury of their peers who determine the appropriate sanctions for the conduct committed. Sanctions may include community service, restitution, letters of apology, essays, substance abuse education or counseling, peer group counseling, and Teen Court jury duty. Upon successful completion of the program, offenders will avoid having a conviction on their records.

Why volunteer with Teen Court?

- * Earn community service hours
- * Flexible scheduling (after school)
- * Firsthand experience with court procedures and the legal system
- * Develop your speaking skills
- * Explore career opportunities
- * Help other teens by diverting them from a criminal record
- * Participate in fun group activities, earn recognition and meet other teens



For more information, please contact:
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ROYSE CITY MUNICIPAL
COURT

VOLUNTEER FOR TEEN COURT

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HOW DOES TEEN COURT WORK?

The Teen Court Program

is run by teens for teens. It is a “hands on” educational opportunity that allows both offenders and volunteers to better understand our system of justice.

A youth referred to **Teen Court** has his/her case argued by teenage prosecutors and defense attorneys before a jury of peers, consisting of volunteers from the high school, middle school and prior offenders sentenced to jury service.

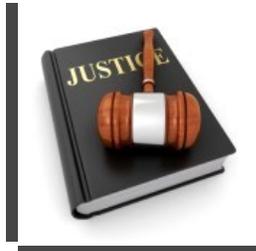


Teen

Court

Training

The teens are educated with regard to court-room personnel, criminal procedures and rules of evidence. The students are faced with the difficult task of determining appropriate sanctions for individuals who have admitted involvement in criminal acts. Each offense is categorized into a particular class, which guides possible sanctions to be imposed.



The juvenile offender is appointed a volunteer teen defense attorney. A volunteer teen prosecutor is assigned to represent the State.

Each hearing is held in the Royse City Court Municipal Room before a Judge. At the conclusion of each case, the jury retires to deliberate to determine the appropriate sanctions to be imposed based upon the nature and facts of the case.

Volunteer Positions Available

- PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS present cases against youth offenders. They represent the State and try to convince the Teen Court jury that the defendant deserves a punishment for his/her offense.
- DEFENSE ATTORNEYS represent youth offenders. They try to convince the Teen Court jury as to why the defendant should receive a lower punishment for his/her offense.
- JURY MEMBERS sit with other youth who may be volunteers or who may be in the Teen Court program as a defendant and listen to cases and help determine a fair punishment.

