

TEEN COURT DRESS CODE

Court room attire is expected of participants, no halter tops, tank tops and shorts. Shirts must be tucked in and pants pulled up. No gang related apparel of any kind.

*For more information contact
Teen Court Coordinator*



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BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF THE COASTAL PLAIN

Mission Statement

To inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need us most to reach their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens.

GREAT FUTURES START *HERE*.



Teen Court of Carteret County Offender Information

Funded by North Carolina Department of Public
Safety and Carteret County Juvenile Crime
Prevention Council

WHAT IS TEEN COURT?

Teen court is a diversion program designed for first time juvenile offenders (ages 10-17) who have admitted responsibility verbally to committing minor misdemeanor offenses and who have consented to participation in the program. It offers an alternative to the formal court system and gives the youthful offender the opportunity to receive sentencing through a non-judicial proceeding conducted by trained teen volunteer attorneys, bailiffs, clerks and jurors. All courtroom participants are volunteer teens with the exception of the judge, and other adult volunteer supervisors. At the trial, the jurors decide a just verdict and sanctions (penalties) are issued to the offender. The trial does not determine guilt or innocence – just a constructive sentence that the offender has a set amount of time to complete.

HOW IT WORKS

- Juveniles brought before Teen Court and successfully complete sanctions will have no legal record of the offense
- Defendants learn to accept responsibility for their actions, learn the effects of their behaviors, learn good citizenship, and experience self-esteem building
- Long term behavioral changes are promoted which leads to enhanced public safety
- Negative labeling is reduced and the risk of recidivism is reduced.

TEEN COURT OFFENDERS

Offenders get a chance to avoid a District/Juvenile Court record and to take responsibility for their actions while participating in a sentencing trial held in the evening enabling the student to stay in school. It can also lead to greater respect for authority and appreciation of property and rights of others.

Eligible offenders are juveniles (ages 10 – 17) who have committed first time, minor misdemeanor offenses. Referrals are made to the Teen Court Coordinator. If the case is deemed appropriate, the coordinator interviews the juvenile along with his/her parent/guardian. If the offender is willing to admit responsibility for the offense, participation may begin. Regulations are discussed and a Teen Court appearance date is set. For a particular case, prosecuting attorneys and jurors cannot be from the same school as the defendant.

SANCTIONS

Sanctions are sentencing options determined by the teen court jury with the guidance of the Teen Court Jury Monitor and Teen Court Coordinator. They have been developed to hold the youth accountable for his/her actions and allow opportunities to make restitution for damage caused. Jurors are given guidelines to follow to determine the most appropriate sentence that could provide offenders opportunities to learn the effects of their actions on themselves, the victims and the community. Sentencing guidelines vary depending on the seriousness of the juvenile's offense.

COMMON TEEN COURT SANCTIONS

Community Service	Jury Duty
Educational Seminar	Apology Letter
Referral to Counseling	Written Essay

WHO CAN REFER CASES?

- School Resource Officers
- Juvenile Court Counselor
- District Attorney's Office
- Carteret County Police Officers
- NC Wildlife Officers

REFERRAL TO TEEN COURT MUST

- Be 10-17 years of age
- Be a full time student in Carteret County
- Admit guilt
- Not have a prior formal record
- Have committed a misdemeanor

NON ELIGIBLE OFFENSES

- Sexual Offenses by youth, past or present
- No firearms offenses
- No DWI or DUI
- Assault in which weapons were used
- Controlled substance under Art. 5 of Chapter 90 of G.S. other than simple possession of a Schedule VI drug or alcohol