## TEEN COURT NEEDS YOU!

Student volunteers grades 6 through 12 are needed for the following positions:

- Jurors
- Jury Foreperson
  - Bailiff
- Defense Attorney
- Prosecuting Attorney
  - Clerk



### Dare County Teen Court

954 Marshall C. Collins Drive / Room 228 P.O. Box 1000

Phone: (252) 475-5689 Fax: (252) 473-1279 E-mail: cynthia.errickson@darenc.gov

To learn more about the Dare County Teen Court and view an actual court hearing, please visit the Community of Juvenile Services website at

DareNC.com/TeenCourt.

Dare County Teen Court is funded by the Dare County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) which is a part of the North Carolina Division of Adult Correction & Juvenile Justice.



# DARE COUNTY TEEN COURT



(252) 475-5689

### WHAT IS TEEN COURT?

Teen Court is an alternative system of justice. It is a diversion program for participants to recognize the harm caused, the impact of their choices (personally, in the family and within the community) and repair the harm.

The creative and constructive sentencing in Teen Court is intended to educate, encourage skill-building and self-discipline and to restore the individual back into the community.

Teen Court utilizes trained student volunteers, under adult supervision, to serve in various capacities. Volunteers are responsible for collaborating to provide appropriate sentencing for the respondent.

Participants admit the charges and voluntarily enter the Teen Court program. Participants can be referred by Juvenile Justice Court Counselors, the District Attorney's Office, School Resource Officers, Law Enforcement Officers, DSS, community members and schools.

Once a participant successfully completes the Teen Court process he/she will have gained insight and acknowledged the consequences of their choices without receiving a criminal record. Those who do not complete the sentencing mandates for any reason will be referred back to the original referring agency.

### WHO BENEFITS FROM TEEN COURT?

#### **Participants Benefit By:**

- Learning important lessons about crime, delinquency, consequences, and restorative practices.
- Taking responsibility for their choices.
- Experiencing the power of positive peer input and support.
- Repairing the harm done to themselves, their family & their community.
- Avoiding a criminal record by successfully completing the Teen Court program.

#### **Student Volunteers Benefit By:**

- Gaining knowledge about the justice system.
- Learning about careers in the legal field.
- Giving back to the community.
- Obtaining volunteer hours for college and employment applications.

### The Community Benefits By:

- Empowering our youth to create positive connections in the community.
- Intervening in the lives of youth at the firstindicator of delinquent or criminal behavior.

- A cost-efficient alternative reducing the number of offenders in the Juvenile & District Courts.
- Promotion of productive connections between youth and authority figures.
- Educating for teenagers about their rights and responsibilities.
- Providing youth & adult volunteers the opportunity to have a positive impact on their school and community.
- Creation of an effective alternative justice opportunity designed to educate, counsel and restore young people into the community.

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