



MEDIATION CENTER OF EASTERN CAROLINA WILSON TEEN COURT – FAQs



<p>Who should sign up for Teen Court?</p>	<p>Teen Court accepts middle and high school students (7th – 12th grade). Home-schooled, private school, public school students are all welcome to apply. We are looking for students who are passionate about giving back to the community and making a positive change in the lives of our local youth.</p> <p>Although we welcome any student to apply, the selection process is <u>highly competitive</u>. We are looking for dedicated and outgoing students that can commit to attending court cases and scheduled program events and remain an active volunteer. Those students who have schedules that may not allow for active participation in Teen Court should consider applying in the future when their schedule are more flexible.</p>
<p>What is the selection criteria for Teen Court?</p>	<p>To become a Teen Court volunteer, you must complete an application and submit it to our office. There is no minimum selection criteria; however, special attention is placed on application completeness, student availability for Teen Court events/court dates, essay prompts and character references.</p> <p>As well, students are also required to attend a MANDATORY New Volunteer Orientation to fully become volunteers of the program. Students (and parents) will receive an email notification no later than 1 week (after submission) on whether or not they have been selected as a volunteer for the program.</p>
<p>When are Teen Court cases held/when does Teen Court meet?</p>	<p>Teen Court cases are held on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at the Wilson County Courthouse. Teen Court Volunteers are asked to arrive by 5:30PM and court can last up until 8:00 PM at the latest (depends on case load). Teen Court also offers educational workshops and seminars on various dates throughout the semester, but will always be scheduled during after-school hours.</p>
<p>How would being a Teen Court Volunteer benefit me?</p>	<p>Students participating in Teen Court help to provide positive influence and sanctions to other students who have committed first-time misdemeanor offenses in our local community. Volunteers also gain valuable real-life skills and experience by serving as courtroom jurors, clerks, bailiffs and attorneys during court cases. Through this and our educational workshops, Teen Court volunteers are educated about the American legal system and get involved with local opportunities to increase their knowledge. As well, student volunteers receive COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS for all activities done with the Teen Court Program.</p>
<p>Can I send other students to jail?</p>	<p>Unfortunately, no! Our first-time offenders are given constructive sentences (such as community service and participation in a Life Skills/Anger Management class) to make amends for their behaviors and also to learn from their actions/mistakes in an effort to prevent future negative behaviors.</p>
<p>I was accepted into Teen Court, but I cannot attend the mandatory New Volunteer Orientation. What should I do?</p>	<p>We accept volunteer application year round! We offer New Volunteer orientation sessions on the first Saturday of each month for newly selected volunteers. If for some reason you are unable to attend, you will be given the option to have your Teen Court your application placed on “hold” until the scheduled next NTCV orientation session.</p>

