



ASHEBORO/RANDOLPH TEEN COURT PROGRAM

RULES FOR TEEN COURT VOLUNTEERS

Participating in Teen Court as a volunteer is an important form of community service. You are helping other students who have violated the law to be held accountable for their actions in a constructive way. This will allow offenders to have a second chance to maintain a clean record without a delinquent or criminal conviction. This type of community service benefits the community and also gives the volunteer the chance to develop new skills. In order to be a Teen Court volunteer, you must agree to abide by certain rules. Some of these rules are necessary to maintain the professional Courthouse environment in order to continue to hold Teen Court hearings in the Randolph County Courthouse. The rules are also important because they also help you do your job as a volunteer in a way that upholds the goals and purposes of Teen Court. As a volunteer, you are a role model, and Teen Court depends upon you accepting the responsibility. Be serious about your role in Teen Court and conduct yourself in a business-like or professional manner.

1. Be neat and clean in your appearance. Shirts should be tucked in. Collared shirts are preferred. No crop tops or tank tops, and no shorts. Jeans should be neat and clean. Slacks and shirts are preferred.
2. Treat each case individually and with objectivity. Be fair and do not show prejudice.
3. Treat all Teen Court participants with equal courtesy, whether a friend or a stranger to you. Refrain from negative comments or gossip about anyone.
4. Arrive on time. If you are a clerk, bailiff, juror, or attorney, report to the appropriate courtroom at **5:30 pm** and sign in.
5. When you arrive at the courthouse, go directly to the assigned courtroom-do not roam about the halls. It is necessary that you remain in the courtroom for the Teen Court session. Hats should not be worn in court, and there should be no eating, drinking, or chewing gum.
6. It is important to show respect in court-no talking, socializing or laughing in the courtroom. We want defendants to take the proceedings seriously, so other participants must take the proceedings seriously too.
7. Address the Judge with respect as "Your Honor" or "May it please the Court".
8. Confidentiality is essential in Teen Court. Any volunteer who breaks confidentiality will be suspended for a period of time from participating in any activities.
9. If you are assigned a case or a role in a Teen Court hearing, remember everyone is depending on you to be there and to be prepared. If you cannot attend please let the Teen Court Coordinator know as soon as possible, so that he/she can find a replacement.
10. The Randolph County Courthouse closes at 5:00pm. Upon arrival and after going through the metal detector, neither you nor anyone accompanying you should be leaving the courthouse. The Bailiff is here to secure the building, not to let people in and out throughout our time in the Courthouse.
11. Be aware that every room in the Randolph County Courthouse is under surveillance except the restrooms. You are to be on your best behavior at all times.
12. You must have permission from your parent or guardian to participate in Teen Court.

I have read and understand all of the above and agree to abide by these rules of conduct and appearance. I understand if I do not abide by these rules, I will not be allowed to participate in Teen Court. By my signature, I agree to show respect for the court by following these rules.

Name

Date