

## WHEN AND WHERE



Vance County Teen Court is held twice a month on the first and third Tuesday. Each session is conducted at the Vance County Court House located in downtown Henderson. Court begins promptly at 6:00 pm. Volunteers are asked to be present by 5:30 pm. Overly casual or revealing dress is not allowed.



**COME AND JOIN US!**

Vance County Court House  
156 Church St.  
Henderson, NC 27536

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Teen Court relies on student and adult volunteers to provide an alternative system of justice which encourages youth to take responsibility for their actions and correct their mistakes. The youth

offender is defended and prosecuted by their peers, student volunteers. A jury of their peers then imposes a constructive sentence which may include restitution, community service, and counseling. Adult volunteers act as mentors and instruct the student volunteers in courtroom etiquette.

Youth and Adult Volunteers are the very foundation upon which our Teen Court operates on a daily basis. They provide the needed community support to help address the problem of at-risk and delinquent youth in a positive and constructive way.

**Call us for more information and to volunteer.**



**Recreation & Parks**



**YOUTH SERVICES DIVISION**

**Gregory Kelly**  
**Teen Court Coordinator**  
300 S. Garnett Street  
Henderson, NC 27536

Phone: 252-431-6099  
Alt. Phone: 252-431-6090



# Vance County Teen Court



You Can Make A  
Difference In Your  
Community



## WHAT IS TEEN COURT?



Teen Court is a program that gives first-time youthful offenders, between the ages of 11 and 17 a second chance, while holding them fully

accountable for their actions. The defendant must stand before a jury of their peers, plead guilty to the offense and accept the sanctions imposed by the jury.

### The Purpose

The program is based on the philosophy that a youthful law violator is less likely to continue to be a repeat offender when a jury of their peers decides the appropriate punishment. It is anticipated that Teen Court will interrupt developing patterns of criminal behavior by promoting feelings of self-esteem, motivation for self improvement and a healthy attitude toward authority. Teen Court challenges the offenders and the teen volunteers to perform at their highest level of ability.

### The Process

Teen Court receives a referral from the Intake Counselor for Juvenile Court, Law Enforcement Officers, School Administrators, District Court or parents. After the case is reviewed for acceptability, an interview is scheduled with the juvenile and their parent

or guardian. An agreement of participation is completed and signed. The rules for the program are discussed. The youth is assigned a Teen Court appearance date. Evidence is presented during the night of Teen Court. The jury decides on the appropriate constructive sentence. The defendant and their parent or guardian participate in an exit interview. The defendant has ninety days from the date of their hearing to complete their sentence. If they complete all of the sentence satisfactorily, criminal charges are not filed and the defendants record is clean.

### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS

Defendant:

- ◆ If they successfully complete sanctions, they will have no legal record of the offense
- ◆ Learn to accept responsibility for their actions
- ◆ Learn the effects of their behavior
- ◆ Learn good citizenship
- ◆ Experience self-esteem building

Teen Court Volunteers:

- ◆ Through hands-on experience they learn about the justice system
- ◆ Students are empowered to take an active role in addressing crime in their community
- ◆ Improves communication and problem solving skills
- ◆ Looks great on college applications
- ◆ Can receive community service hours good toward graduation

For the Community:

- ◆ Reduction of crime in local community
- ◆ Strengthening of family unit through community resource referrals
- ◆ Reduces Juvenile Court Caseload

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE

- ⇒ Between the Ages of 11 and 17
- ⇒ Enrolled in Vance County Schools
- ⇒ Admit Guilt
- ⇒ No prior record
- ⇒ Misdemeanor Offense

### ELIGIBLE OFFENSES

Communicating Threats  
Property Damage (Under \$500)  
Shoplifting  
Trespassing  
Simple Affray (Fighting)  
Disorderly Conduct  
Simple Assault  
Truancy  
Drug or Alcohol Possession

### TYPE OF SANCTIONS

Community Service Hours (4 –20)  
Teen Court Jury Duties (maximum of 7)  
Educational seminars or videos  
Restitution  
Written Essay  
Letter of Apology to Victim and/or Parents  
Counseling  
Referral to resources for the youth in the community

