



Teen Court is a restorative justice model, this model is a less formalized but still critical court process. The model is operated by youth and adult volunteers performing duties of courtroom personnel with the exception of the judge who is a licensed attorney or judge. Youth are sentenced to a series of sanctions that include community service, monetary restitution, workshops and jury duty. The program recruits, trains and develops retention activities for all volunteers and monitors sanctions of all teen court respondents within the organization. The program schedules and provides training for jurors, attorneys and judges. The training is accomplished with a judicial consultant. The program secures Community Services Worksites and provides the required reviews of each site insuring the program has written agreements with each agency.

Referral Process: The identified target population is drawn from intake diversions, direct diversion from juvenile court at the adjudication phase. Law Enforcement can directly refer the target population for eligible offenses as well as School Resource Officers for school based offenses. Referrals are received primarily through juvenile services, law enforcement officers & SROs and direct referrals from the Public Schools of Robeson County. During the intake session the Administrator reviews the offenses with the parent and participant giving the youth an opportunity to admit guilt and to convey the circumstances that generated the charge(s).

Those referrals received having uncooperative participants or parents (no shows, attitudes or denial of offense) are returned back to the referring agent for formal court processing. Prior to the night of the hearing, the participant is assigned a teen court attorney advocate to represent them in their hearing. Upon completion of the teen court hearing the participant and their parent or guardian meet with RCTCYS staff to review the court sanctions and sign the supervision agreement (outtake). The referring agent receives a copy of the teen court supervision agreement with the court ordered sanctions and the date of the 120 day deadline.



