Eden Township Youth Court

Community Youth Courts (CYC) offer diversion programs to the traditional juvenile justice system for middle and high school teens that are first time offenders of misdemeanor (or lesser crimes) and who admit their guilt. CYC participation is voluntary. We offer the offending youth a second chance via restorative justice, peer interaction and personal growth opportunities.

CYC addresses the early stages of juvenile delinquency by bringing teenage offenders before a jury of their peers. Sentencing includes constructive sanctions, such as community service, jury duty, Life Choices class, apologies and/or restitution. Participating youth learn about accepting the consequences for their actions and making responsible choices in their future.

Our Goals

- To assist teen offenders in recognizing that they are responsible for their own behavior and that the consequences they experience are a direct result of their own actions.
- To provide a forum for teens to experience the judiciary system and, in the process, reduce the likelihood of repeat offenses.
- To promote a positive attitude toward authority by showing respect, courtesy, confidentiality and dignity to all individuals in the program.
- To establish positive relationships between the community and its youth, resulting in better understanding and communication.



Our Process

1. CYC receives the offender's case from the referring agency.
2. The offender and their parent(s)/guardian(s) meet with the Youth Court Program Director to learn about the program and Register.
3. A volunteer Youth Advocate contacts the offender to prepare the case.
4. The offender appears in Youth Court for their scheduled Youth Court hearing.
5. The case is heard and the peer jury decides on the Sanction Plan (sentence).
   a. Sanctions are based on restorative justice principals and will always contain a Life Choices class, jury duty and community service. Additional sanctions can be oral or written apologies, essays, classes, counseling, anger management and/or some form of reimbursement.
6. The offender has 90 days from the day of trial to complete their sanctions.
7. When the Sanction Plan is completed the defendant and referring agency is notified and the case is closed.
8. If the Sanction Plan is not completed, the case is returned to the referring agency for further prosecution up to and including referrals to the traditional juvenile justice system.

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