

What is the Wyoming County Youth Court?



- YOUTH COURT is a diversion program aimed at reducing juvenile delinquency in Wyoming County through restorative justice principals.
- YOUTH COURT is designed to serve first time offenders by providing positive peer pressure
- It is designed to help the respondent become accountable to the community for their unlawful behavior, by accepting responsibility for their behavior, and to help them repair the harm caused.
- Cases are referred by the Wyoming County Probation Department, local school districts, and local law enforcement agencies.
- Typical cases that may be heard in Youth Court may include (but not limited to):
 - Shoplifting
 - Larceny
 - Vandalism
 - Criminal Mischief
 - Bullying
 - Truancy
- YOUTH COURT is held in an actual courtroom.

How Does the Wyoming County Youth Court Work?



- YOUTH COURT is a voluntary program
- Wyoming County Youth Court utilizes a peer tribunal (3 judge) model.
- Youth defense attorneys will be assigned to represent the youth.
- Youth prosecuting attorneys will be assigned to represent the community.
- The judges will hear the case and deliberate to agree on sanctions that will help the youth become accountable for their actions and repair the harm they have caused to victims.
- Examples of sanctions that may be issued include (but are NOT limited to):
 - Community Service
 - Restitution
 - Tutoring
 - Letters of apology
 - Essays

Who Can Join the Wyoming County Youth Court?



- Members are Wyoming County residents in grades 7-12.
- Members must successfully complete a 24 hour training and pass a bar exam.
- Areas of instruction include an overview of the juvenile and criminal justice system, the penal law, operations and procedures of Youth Court, confidentiality, questioning, deliberation skills, restorative justice principals, and team building.
- Members must be free from any current law enforcement issues and be in good academic standing. We do offer respondents the opportunity to join Youth Court once they have successfully completed the Youth Court process.

Why Should I Join Youth Court?



- Learn about the Justice System
- Be a positive role model for your peers
- Volunteer in your community
- Leadership Opportunities
- Develop public speaking skills
- Enhance college/job applications
- Meet new people and gain long lasting friendships
- HAVE FUN!

****NEW TRAINING SESSIONS ARE HELD EACH FALL****

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE YOUTH COURT COORDINATOR

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