



## Ontario County Youth Court



**Ontario County Youth Court, is a peer based program designed to promote education of the judicial process and to promote accountability.**

### **Ontario County Youth Court Serves 2 Populations:**

The **Respondents**, youth who have committed non-sexual, nonviolent crimes, are given an opportunity to participate in restorative justice practices as an alternative to the juvenile justice system.

#### **Benefits To The Respondent include:**

- Avoid legal fees
- A chance to learn from their mistakes
- Given second chances
- Taking a restorative approach to the justice system, rather than a punitive approach

**Volunteers**, commit to a 20-hour training facilitated by professionals, within our community, who are committed to providing essential educational pieces to help our youth volunteers in the courtroom. After training volunteers take on the roles of Judge, Prosecution, Defense, Bailiff, Jury Foreperson, Juror.

#### **Benefits to the Volunteers include:**

- Leadership skills
- Community Service hours
- Make an impact on the community



## How Does Youth Court Operate?

A young person who has taken responsibility for their actions, chooses Youth Court, voluntarily, and appears before a court of his/her peers. All court positions are filled by student Youth Court members. The Court is presented with relevant evidence pursuant to the matter set before them, and they deliberate on the matter. After deliberation, the Youth Volunteers will sanction the respondent based on restorative practices which can include:

- Community Service
- Apology Letter(s)
- Essays
- Counseling
- Online Courses, geared towards education and prevention
- Journals
- Drug and Alcohol Education



### Our Success Statistics:

In 2020, 93% of our respondents completed the sanctions given and in 2019 the sanction completion rate was 95%.

For more information, referrals, or a volunteer application, Please contact:

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