

## When/Where is Teen Court held?

---

Teen Court is held on scheduled Tuesday evenings in the Robert E. Williams Court Room in the Robert M. Foster Justice Center.

Court begins promptly at 6:00 PM.

All volunteers should be signed in by 5:30 PM.

Appropriate attire must be worn. No shorts. Shirts may not have writing, logos, etc. and must be tucked in. No food or drinks are allowed in the court area.

## Map

---

Robert M. Foster Justice Center

76347 Veterans Way | Yulee, FL 32097

The Justice Center is located 1/2 mile east of I-95 off A1A/State Road 200. Turn south onto William Burgess Blvd and continue .6 miles. The entrance to the Justice Center is on the right.



# Nassau County Teen Court



Michelle Watson

Teen Court Coordinator



## What is Teen Court?

---

Teen Court is a program run by teens for teens. Youthful offenders between the ages of 11 and 18, who plead guilty to a misdemeanor crime, have their cases heard by a jury of their peers. Teen volunteers serve as prosecuting and defense attorneys, bailiffs, court clerks and jurors. A volunteer attorney presides as Judge and is the only adult directly involved in the Court proceedings.

## What is the purpose of Teen Court?

---

The purpose of Teen Court is to interrupt the developing pattern of criminal behavior in juveniles by promoting self-esteem, motivation for self improvement, and forming a healthy attitude towards authority. The offenders assume responsibility for their behavior and accept the consequences of their actions through community service work, serving on the Teen Court jury, and any punishment sanctioned by a Teen Court jury of their peers.

Teen Court provides an educational experience for the offender and teen volunteers. The teens are given “hands-on” experience with the legal process, become familiar with the court system and learn about various career opportunities through the community service they perform. Every student volunteer earns credit for school or club purposes.

Teen Court enables young people a unique challenge and opportunity to demonstrate to adults and themselves their capacity for self-government and responsible citizenship.

**Volunteer Today!**  
**Contact Michelle Watson**  
**(904) 548-4611**

## How does Teen Court work?

---

The teen offender comes before Teen Court having acknowledged guilt. The offender and their parent/guardian meet with the Teen Court Coordinator for a pretrial interview to go over rules and guidelines for the program.

In the court session, the Judge explains the offense committed. The teen defense and prosecution attorneys then present the case to the jury through the testimony of the offender. After carefully listening to the facts, the teen jury deliberates the case and decides a constructive sentence for the offender.

The offender and their parent/guardian then meet with the coordinator to sign a contract to complete the sentence they have received. Once the offender completes their sentence, a Successful Completion report is sent to the State Attorney’s Office, Department of Juvenile Justice and the referring agency.

## What are the requirements for Volunteers?

---

In order to participate as a Teen Court Volunteer, you must meet the following criteria:

- You must be between the ages of 11 and 18
- You must abide by the rules of the program.
- You must sign, respect and abide by the “Oath of Confidentiality”
- You must demonstrate maturity and sensitivity

Student volunteers meeting the above criteria and interested in serving as jurors, prosecutors, defense attorneys, bailiffs and clerks are always needed. Attending participants sign in and are assigned juror positions in which they serve with fellow students.