

## WHEN?

Teen Court sessions are held on the first Monday of the month at the Bladen County Courthouse located at:

166 E. Broad St.  
Elizabethtown, NC 28337

5:15 pm Arrive  
5:15-6:00 pm Refreshments  
6:00-8:00 pm Court in Session



## TEEN COURT SESSIONS

November 4, 2019  
December 2, 2019  
January 6, 2020  
February 3, 2020  
March 2, 2020  
April 6, 2020  
May 4, 2020  
June 1, 2020  
July 6, 2020  
August 3, 2020  
(Dates subject to change)



Office of the Fifteenth  
Prosecutorial District  
**Jon David**

**District Attorney**



Justice for Youth by Youth

# Teen Court



# Bladen County

Bladen County Courthouse  
166 E. Broad St.  
Elizabethtown, NC 18337

Ron Matthews, Teen Court Director  
PO Box 2619  
Elizabethtown, NC 28337

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## WHAT?

Teen Court is a diversion program for juveniles who have been charged with violating the law, in lieu of the more formal handling of criminal charges by the traditional justice system. Teen Court volunteers do not determine guilt or innocence, but rather afford the juvenile offender the opportunity to take responsibility for their actions in a mock courtroom setting before their peers. Student volunteers serve as prosecutors, defense attorneys, jurors, bailiffs and court clerks. Adult volunteers are also involved in Teen Court. They often assist the student volunteers with preparing for court and supervise the courtroom proceedings.



## How?

Juvenile offenders are referred to the Teen Court program by Juvenile Court Counselors, School Resource Officers and district court prosecutors. Only first-time offenders and low-level violations are eligible for the Teen Court program. The juvenile offender must fulfill all sanctions imposed by the court in order to successfully complete the program. Sanctions ordered by the court may include restitution, community service and/or counseling.



## WHO?

Teen Court volunteers are comprised of 9th through 12th grade high school students attending Bladen County Schools. Contact the Teen Court program director for volunteer opportunities.



## WHY?

- **Accountability.** Ensures that juvenile offenders are held accountable for their actions and would likely not result in a traditional criminal record.
- **Timeliness.** Resolves referrals within a matter of days rather than several months in the traditional justice system.
- **Cost Savings.** Relies heavily on volunteers, therefore, the program can adjudicate several referrals at little cost.
- **Experiential Learning.** Gain experience in public speaking, team work, problem solving and analytical reasoning, as well as, a better understanding of the judicial process.
- **Community.** Encourages greater respect for the law among youth, promotes volunteerism among both adults and youth, enhances community-court relations and public appreciation of the legal system.