

Service-Learning at Saint Joseph's University

Youth Courts

Address	A local Philadelphia School
Supervisor	Gregg Volz
Phone	
Email	gvolzyc2012@gmail.com
Transportation	Approximate Travel Time by Car: 20 Minutes
Service Times	TBD
Placement Availability	4 Students
Clearances Required	FBI Fingerprints, Criminal Records, Child Abuse, Minors on Campus

Description of Agency/Activities: Youth court is an alternative to punitive disciplinary practices for students who violate school rules. The Youth Court Support Center trains students to run a court inside a school. The court is run by a student judge, student bailiff, student youth advocate, and student jury. They use youth court training teams (primarily law students but increasingly undergraduates also) to instruct the students how to run the court. It generally takes about 20 lesson plans before students are ready to hold real hearings.

The youth advocate acts as a "defense attorney", makes an opening and closing statement on behalf of the respondent, and ensures the respondent's rights are respected. The youth court jury asks the student offender (respondent) questions about their rule breaking and determines a restorative justice disposition

Student Role in Agency:

St. Joseph's University Service-Learning students will be working at Strawberry Mansion High School in a classroom that will be facilitating and running youth courts. SJU students will be trained by Gregg Volz before beginning in the classroom. SJU students will be able to see youth courts happen in class, and mentor and build relationships with the students at Strawberry Mansion.

Orientation & Requirements: SJU and Youth Courts policies require 4 clearances to volunteer at this placement: Criminal Background, Child Abuse History, FBI Fingerprinting and Minors on Campus Training Video. More information on how to complete these clearances is available at www.sju.edu/servicelearningstudents and at Placement Awareness Training.