

DANE COUNTY TIMEBANK YOUTH COURT

Mission:

The mission of the TimeBank Youth Court/Restorative Justice Program is to provide an alternative to the juvenile justice system so youth can willingly take responsibility for their actions, make amends, and build healthy and productive relationships to create a safer, more caring community.

How Youth Court works

Dane County teens who have been charged with ordinance violations such as habitual truancy, some drug possession, petty theft, vandalism, disorderly conduct, trespassing or fighting are offered the option of accepting the ticket or charge or attending Youth Court. The arresting police officer offers this option based on the type of offense. Teenagers come to Youth Court for sentencing only, having already admitted guilt.

When the respondent goes to the Youth Court, s/he appears before a jury of peers. The jurors, under adult supervision and earning TimeBank Hours for their service, determine and deliver a sentence to the youth. A sentence can involve: attending life skills classes on anger management, healthy relationships, employment skills and money management, peer pressure, and others; community service; mentoring; tutoring; writing an apology letter; serving on the jury; learning a new skill; and more.

The respondent has 60 days to complete the sentence. After the 60 days is up and the sentence is completed, the ticket or charge is destroyed and the violation does not appear on the respondent's record. If the respondent fails to complete the sentence in 60 days, the ticket or charge is issued. Upon completion of the sentence we encourage the respondent to continue to utilize the system of support the TimeBank can provide.

Earning and receiving TimeBank Hours is a great way to keep these adolescents involved in a strong social network building trust, skills, and work experience. In addition to the obvious benefits to respondents who are given opportunities for productive community involvement, we work extensively with our jurors and former respondents to develop leadership capabilities.

How you can help:

- Mentor a respondent or juror
- Teach a Life Skills class
- Provide a service opportunity
- Help staff the court
- Tutor jurors or respondents
- Join the Timebank and share your skills and talents with the youth or those who support them

For more information:

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About The TimeBank

The Dane County TimeBank links individuals, social service organizations, public and private institutions, food producers, neighborhoods, local businesses and arts groups to make it easier to share resources.

Timebanking is an exchange system. People help each other and receive credits for their service. Anyone who helps another member earns one TimeBank Hour per hour of service, which they can then spend on an hour of service from anyone else in the network.

Timebanking is a way to value the work we do for others in our community and the work we do in building that community. We use reliable TimeBank members to staff the Youth Court, teach life skills classes and mentor the respondents as they complete their sentences. It's a way for us to involve lots of the community in helping young people succeed, to provide new learning, service and recreational opportunities to youth, and to serve many youth on a small budget.

