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Winnebago County State's Attorney's Jr. Ambassador Program

Purpose:

The Winnebago County State's Attorney's Junior Ambassadors Program will give students in grades 6-12 an overview of the workings of the criminal justice system and share the values of prosecutors with the participants who will then, in turn, share their experiences with students in their schools.

Shared Core Values:

The shared core values that will be basis for the Jr. Ambassador Program will be are Respect, Integrity, Trust and Communication. Each core value will be the subject of 2 meetings (first two meetings on Respect, second two meetings on Integrity, third two meetings on Trust and last two meetings on Communication.)

Program Time Commitment:

The Jr. Ambassador Program will consist of 8 weekly meetings of 1 hour each. The meetings will be at a location determined by the State's Attorney and may include churches and community centers. Participants must attend all 8 sessions in order to successfully complete the program. Each participant will sign a Jr. Ambassador's Creed acknowledging the importance of the Shared Core Values in our daily lives and pledging to share the message of the Shared Core Values with fellow students in their schools.

Program Outline:

Each session will be conducted by two volunteer Assistant State's Attorneys. The discussion of each Shared Core Value will begin with a skit or role playing exercise demonstrating the importance of the value in particular situations that young people are likely to face in everyday life. The program will include a tour of the Winnebago County Jail and a visit with the Chief Judge of the 17th Circuit Court. Participants will also "shadow" an assistant state's attorney as part of the Communications presentation.

Graduation:

Students who successfully complete the Jr. Ambassador Program will be presented with a graduation certificate by the State's Attorney at a celebration at the end of the program.