

Volunteer Advocate Academy Overall Goals and Objectives for each Module

Module 1 – Overview of Representing Adolescents in Court

Goal:

You will identify key aspects of being a volunteer advocate and representing teens.

Objectives:

1. To establish a relationship with the youth
2. To address adolescent needs along with their safety and protection concerns
3. To use youths strengths as an asset.

Module 2 – Adolescent Development and the Impact of Trauma

Goal:

To recognize that the trauma can cause developmental delays

Objectives:

1. To use developmental information to improve your relationship
2. To make stronger recommendations to the court
3. To consider the relationship between placement and developmental issues

Module 3 – The Role of the Adolescent in the Courtroom

Goal:

To help adolescents understand the legal process and ways to participate.

Objectives:

1. To increase youth participation in court
2. To recognize common obstacles to youth participation
3. To learn ways to overcome those barriers.

Module 4 – Environment: Youth, Family, and Others

Goal:

To evaluate adolescents' safety and protection by understanding their environment.

Objectives:

1. To uncover information about their world
2. To improve your relationship and communication with youth
3. To build respect and trust through interviewing techniques

Module 5 – Identity and Diversity

Goal:

To understand the importance of identity formation when working with adolescents.

Objectives:

1. How foster care can impact youth identity formation and social development.
2. How identity and diversity issues can influence recommendations to the court.
3. Ways to promote healthy and open discussion about cultural and ethnic identity.
4. How issues impact your understanding of diverse environments.

Module 6 - Youth Health and Addictions

Goal:

To become aware of common teen health issues and trends for at-risk youths.

Objectives:

1. How health disabilities and substance abuse can influence your relationship with youth.
2. How health concerns and addictions can impact your effort to help youths self-advocate.
3. How current mental health trends and health issues can influence your recommendations to the court.

Module 7 – Understanding Youth Educational Needs

Goal:

To secure appropriate educational resources and promote post-secondary options for youths.

Objectives:

1. To explore educational plans and alternatives.
2. How to formulate an educational action plan leading to court recommendations.
3. How to recognize the range of issues to establish a post-secondary educational plan.

Module 8 – Life Skills Development

Goal:

To understand the development of life skills is necessary to transition to self-sufficiency

Objectives:

1. To make life skills and safety planning recommendations to the court.
2. To identify and partner with community life skills programs.
3. To recognize the need to promote real world experiences for foster youth as part of transition planning.

Module 9 – Work Experiences for Youths

Goal:

To recognize the importance of early work experience both in and outside the home.

Objectives:

1. To explore reasons to recommend work experience in your court report as a way to meet youth's developmental need.
2. To learn about resources to connect youths to community options with work experience.
3. To ensure work experiences are part of the youth's transition plan.

Module 10 – Living Arrangements

Goal:

To understand the range of potential living arrangements and placement options for each youth.

Objectives:

1. To understand why one option may be a better developmental alternative than another.
2. To learn why it's important to include reasons for recommending a living arrangement in the transition plan you present to the court.
3. To learn about federal policies and resources that influence the living arrangement options