

Overview

In October 2013, the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) opened its innovative, Job Readiness Training Center (JRTC) in Columbia. Located at the corner of Broad River and Shivers Roads and developed in collaboration with community partners, the facility will provide life and job skills classes to DJJ youth on probation, parole, or in committed status ranging primarily from ages 12 to 18, and other youth as part of the agency's prevention and intervention efforts.

The JRTC is a multi-use facility that houses classroom and meeting space designed to provide amenities that enhance the learning experience. The facility is equipped with video conferencing, video projection, smart-board technology, a computer learning lab and conference room for meetings and other training.

While class size at the JRTC facility is limited to about 16 youth, additional training is offered to students from up to six remote locations around the state at one time through video conference link. The number of attendees at those locations is dictated by the available seating space. DJJ offices in every county and private providers' facilities where juveniles are placed have video conferencing ability, and their participants will be included. A major goal of the JRTC is to provide training, to as many youth as possible, regardless of where they are physically located.

Handouts and other course materials used in Columbia are provided to remote locations by email prior to the actual session. Staff at the remote locations monitor class participation and assist the JRTC instructor as needed so all students get the same learning experience. Class schedules, registration forms, and other information are posted on-line at the JRTC link on the DJJ website.

JRTC Curriculum

JRTC curriculum is designed to meet the specific needs of the youth, and instruction is provided by DJJ staff as well as community partners from different disciplines. The class sessions are taught in complete 1 to 2 hour blocks, with certificates provided to the participants upon completion. In addition to job readiness training, the JRTC also offers a range of "soft" life skills courses designed to enhance a youth's chance of being successful in finding and keeping a job. Course curriculum includes:

- Tackling the Tough Skills
 - Attitude
 - Responsibility
 - Communication
 - Problem Solving
 - Preparing for the Workplace
- Résumé and Cover Letter Writing
- Interviewing Skills
- Social Networking...Face-to-Face
- Dressing for Success
- Personal Grooming for Young Men & Women
- Planning for a Future of Financial Success
- Setting Priorities for Life
- Time Management & Organization
- Business Entrepreneurship
- Kids Law
- ServSafe® and Healthy Eating
- Becoming Job Smart
- Trades Exposure
 - Carpentry
 - Plumbing
 - Electrical
 - Welding
 - Office and Industrial Environments

For more information please contact:

Job Readiness Training Center
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Office: (803) 896-2106 ♦ Email: JRTC@scdjj.net

For additional DJJ resources please visit our website at
<http://www.state.sc.us/djj>