



Who We Are

The Diversion Program Team is a collaborative group consisting of several agencies in South County including law enforcement departments, local community-based organizations, and the local school districts.

Who is Eligible to Participate?

The Diversion Program is inclusive with only a few specific disqualifiers. Typically, youth who have the following attributes are eligible for inclusion in the program:

- Willing to participate in a restorative process where the matter is addressed at the local level.
- Under 18 years old.
- Little to no previous arrest history.
- Has not previously participated in the Diversion Program.
- The referred matter does not include a disqualifying offense.

Contact Us

Email us at: scytf@cityofgilroy.org

South County Youth Diversion Program

*An Affiliation with the
South County Youth Task Force*



“We believe in and support youth in our community. We view ‘mistakes’ as learning opportunities. We acknowledge one may not be ready to implement our message, but we never underestimate the importance of planting the seed.”

– South County Youth Diversion Program Team

Our Mission

The South County Youth Diversion Program provides an opportunity for youth who engage in inappropriate behaviors to come together with community members and address the matter at the local level versus through the traditional process with further involvement in the Juvenile Justice system.

Benefits of Participation

Youth are provided an opportunity to participate in a strength-based process that includes partaking in a restorative justice circle. Upon successful completion, the arrest record is sealed: A graduate may respond to inquiries about the event as if the matter never occurred.

Restorative Justice Circle

A restorative justice circle is a conversation which seeks input from victims, community partners, the youth, and other appropriate individuals. The discussion provides the referred youth an opportunity to gain insight regarding the alleged behavior, as a foundation for change behavior, and includes acknowledging what has occurred and owning their role in that situation. This process allows a youth to learn about the impact their behavior had on others while having a voice regarding accountability.

Restorative Justice Outcomes

- Repairs the harm that occurred and rebuilds the relationships of those involved.
- Strengthens the youth, families, and the community.



“Restorative justice practices rests with the belief that people make positive changes when those in positions of authority do thing WITH them versus TO them.”

Noel Amherd, M.A., Ph.D.
