

VAP Background



- The mission of the Volunteer Center of Riverside County is to link people in need with those who can help. The Volunteer Center of Riverside County has a 42-year history matching volunteers with opportunities, providing information & referral, developing programs in response to community need and an Alternative Sentencing Program. The Alternative Sentencing Program specifically developed the Community Based Alternative Sentencing Option Programs such as TEMPO, VIP, HAMM, MONITORING, IGNITION INTERLOCK and COMMUNITY SERVICE for the Riverside County Judicial System.
- VAP has been in operation since July 2006.
- VAP is a fee for service program.

“Let us not look back in anger or forward in fear, but around in awareness”.

JAMES THURBER



For Information Please Contact:

**Volunteer Center of Riverside
2060 University Avenue
Riverside, Ca 92507**

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ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING PROGRAM

*A Division of the
Volunteer Center of Riverside County*

VAP

Victim Awareness Program
“Walking in Their Shoes”



“If you attempt to walk a mile in the shoes of another or at least place yourself in someone else’s shoes, you have begun the journey of empathy and taken the first steps towards victim awareness”

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VAP Session Locations: San Jacinto, Murrieta, Riverside

WHAT IS VAP?

- A 6-week/18-hour program, developed to encourage the juvenile offenders to uncover the irrational and problematic thinking styles that often accompany psychological distress that may lead to criminal behavior.
- Ages 10 –18 year olds are eligible to participate in the program.
- A program to provide the juvenile offender with critical tools to build empathy and to become a more productive citizen in the community.
- The juvenile offender explores topics through interactive group sessions, community service and counseling sessions.
- A program that assists the juvenile offender to take responsibility for their offending and consider how their actions have affected the victims, their families and the community.



Goals of VAP



- To educate juvenile offenders regarding the legal, emotional and financial consequences their crime has had on the victims, their families and the community.
- To provide the juvenile offender with steps towards positive change, focusing on the emotional and psychological effects of the crime they have committed.
- To increase empathy and accountability, and to help the juvenile offender to reclaim their future decision making.
- To reduce youth re-offending..



How VAP Works



The Volunteer Center of Riverside County is responsible for all day-to-day program operations.

- Teens are referred by: *Courts, Law Enforcement, Schools, Probation Department / Youth Accountability Boards & Parents / Self Referral*
- Cost/fees: \$150.00. Payment schedules and sliding scale are available for qualifying families.
- Participants must complete all 8 VAP components to receive certification of completion.
- Program has an optional Juvenile Hall or Jail Tour if Requested at Intake, or required by Probation/Courts.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Intake Interview =1 hr.
- 2) Clients' Role In The Community = 2 hrs.
- 3) Increase Awareness-Psychological and Financial Affects of Crime =2 hrs.
- 4) The Victim Experience
"Walking in Their Shoes" Guest Speaker / Video Presentation = 2 hrs.
- 5) Counseling to Increase Empathy = 2 hrs.
- 6) Home Project-Community Service Basic Life Skills = 4hrs.
- 7) 500-Word Reflection Essay = 4 hrs.
- 8) Certificate of Completion/Exit Interview = 1hrs.

Total Program Hours: 18-Hrs.

