



Oconto County
Teen Court

Oconto County Teen Court Application

What is Teen Court?

The Teen Court panel is made up of high school volunteers who go through training to determine an appropriate sentence for a teenage offender. Teens are selected from throughout Oconto County. Teens will rotate serving on the panel. It is expected that they will serve one evening approximately every other month. Panel members hear cases of first time teen offenders who commit misdemeanor crimes such as underage tobacco use, theft, or disorderly conduct. These offenders have admitted their guilt and voluntarily enter Teen Court.

How Does Teen Court work?

Cases are presented in the Oconto County Courthouse in front of 4-6 teen court panel members. One of the panel members serves as a mentor for the offender, meeting with the offender before the case to share information. Everyone in the courtroom takes an oath of confidentiality. The defendant, who has admitted guilt, is questioned by the teen court panel to determine the circumstances of the offense. After carefully listening to the facts, the teen panel comes up with a constructive sentence for the defendant. Examples of sentences could include letters of apology, community service, essays, projects, counseling, or workshops.

Teen Court Panel Members must:

- ◆ Be in grades 9 - 12
- ◆ Agree to volunteer for at least one year
- ◆ Respect the Oath of Confidentiality
- ◆ Demonstrate maturity and sensitivity
- ◆ Abide by the Volunteer Guidelines
- ◆ Attend training session

Benefits for Teen Court Panel Members include:

- ◆ Experience that stands out on job or college resumes'
- ◆ Opportunity to interact with other area teens
- ◆ Role model and Leadership opportunities
- ◆ Chance to demonstrate the positive contributions of teens to our community
- ◆ Opportunity to learn about the judicial system

How can I be a Teen Court Panel Member?

- Fill out an application available from high school guidance or UW-Extension. Attend an interview.
- Attend two day training during the summer provided by UW-Extension & Teen Court Advisory Board. Training dates will be announced when new panelists are selected.
- Be ready to begin hearing cases in September 2008.

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Name _____ Date of birth _____

School _____ Graduation Year _____

Phone _____ / _____ / _____ E-mail _____

Home Address _____
City State Zip

◆ **Briefly describe why you would like to be a member of the Oconto County Teen Court Panel.**

◆ **What skills do you have that would make you an effective Teen Court Panel member?**

◆ **Explain in your own words, the importance of keeping the Oath of Confidentiality.**

◆ Describe what a role model is. How are you a role model in your school and community?

List the days and times of any extra curricular activities or clubs, you are involved in, including work.

Applicant:

If I am selected to be an Oconto County Teen Court Panel member, I agree to attend a 2-day training provided by UW-Extension and the Teen Court Advisory Board. I agree to serve as a voluntary panel member approximately one evening every other month. I realize that Teen Court may attend trainings or presentations during a school day and that it is my responsibility to make up any school work I miss. I realize that transportation to Teen Court functions may or may not be provided.

► Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian:

I have read the above statements and agree to allow my son/daughter to participate in all aspects of Oconto County Teen Court. I give permission for my son/daughter to be transported to and from Teen Court functions by school personnel or employees of UW-Extension or Oconto County.

► Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Return to Teen Court Coordinator by May 30th

**Please return to: Neil Klemme
UW-Extension Office
301 Washington St. – Courthouse
Oconto WI 54153-1699**

The University of Wisconsin Extension asks that you voluntarily respond to the questions below. The cumulative demographic information will be used to enhance our programming efforts.

Gender: Male Female Ethnicity: Hispanic Not Hispanic Race: White Black Asian or Pacific Islander
 American Indian or Alaskan Native Age: Under 18 18-35 35-49 50-64 65+

Do you require a special accommodation to participate in any of the described activities? If yes, please describe the accommodation that is needed: _____