

## 2023 Ashland County Teen Court Application



### Announcement & Application Materials

*Dear Ashland County Teen Court Applicant,*

Thank you for your interest in applying for the Ashland County Teen Court. I am confident that you will find this experience both challenging and rewarding. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly or the Ashland County UW-Madison Extension Office, and either a current teen panelist or I will reach out to you. The Ashland County UW-Madison Extension Office phone number is 715-682-7017.

### Teen Court Panelist Information

**Times & Location:** Teen Court meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Ashland Courthouse.

**Term of Appointment:** One year with the option to renew depending on year in school.

#### General Responsibilities:

1. Attendance is important; if you are unable to attend a meeting let the advisor know.
2. Training and proper conduct within the established guidelines for the Teen Court are crucial.
3. Come prepared to hear cases and Honor the Oath of Confidentiality for Teen Court members.

#### Qualifications:

1. Currently in high school within the Ashland County or Bad River Nation region.
2. Ability to attend scheduled cases during the evenings at the Ashland Courthouse.
3. Access to transportation and/or technology to attend these meetings.
4. Ability to effectively work with others in a structured setting.
5. Ability to identify issues related to first time juvenile offenders who are involved in the judicial system.
6. Good organizational and communication skills.
7. Willing to openly express themselves to both a youth and adult audience.

#### Checklist of Teen Court Application Materials

- **Complete the personal application form (pages 3-4).**
  - This can be done through printing a hard copy and writing by hand, or completing in Word Doc.
- **Contact 2 adults to be your references and send them the forms included ([found here](#)).**
  - Make sure to let your references know of the application due date.
- **Submit application materials for review to the Ashland County Extension Office.**
  - Drop off or mail application materials to the Ashland County Extension Office (address below)
  - Address = 201 W. Main Street, Ashland County Courthouse Room 107, Ashland, WI 54806
  - If preferred, you may email application materials to Kate Wallner – [kate.wallner@wisc.edu](mailto:kate.wallner@wisc.edu)
  - The due date for application submissions is **April 30<sup>th</sup> at 10PM.**

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### ***Overview of Ashland County Teen Court***

The Ashland County Teen Court was established in 2006 as a collaborative effort between the UW Extension office in Ashland County, Ashland County Circuit Court and Ashland County Human Services. This was in response to a statistical trend that 1st time juvenile offenders were shown to respond more effectively to their peers than a traditional court setting. Ashland's Teen Court will be comprised of 8-10 young adults who represent each of the high schools in Ashland County.

Teen Court meets once a month at the courthouse to hear cases for 1st time juvenile offenders who have already admitted to their crime. After explaining their oath of confidentiality, the Teen Court asks clarifying questions to both the youth and their guardian(s) to formulate their understanding not only of the offense but how the youth individual currently functions at home, in school, and in their community.

After hearing the case, the Teen Court deliberates in private and utilizes restorative justice theory to create a sequence of logical consequences for each defendant. Teen Court panelists create a dispositional agreement designed to help defendants recognize the negative effect of his/her actions have had themselves and others. This agreement is designed to connect the defendant to community service that relates to an existing personal interest and create opportunities for active personal reflection. The defendant has the opportunity to sign the deferred prosecution agreement, which is legally binding, and complete the agreement or the case will be referred back to the Ashland County Circuit Court.

The Teen Court receives training and monthly advisory support from Kate Wallner, 4-H Youth Development Educator for Ashland County UW-Madison Extension, along with an annual training with the Ashland County District Attorney's office. The current Teen Court will select new panelists through an open application process.

When the juvenile respondents successfully complete their Teen Court sanction, they will have the conviction removed from their record. For the offender and the community, Teen Court is a second chance for youth who have made a mistake and want to move forward more mindfully.

Overall, the feedback from parents and guardians of defendants, and the defendants themselves, has been very positive and encouraging. The Teen Court panelists benefit through direct training, and a hands-on service-learning experience that benefits the community. They also increase their communication and leadership skills in a professional, judicial setting. Ashland County is on the forefront of a statewide and national trend with the establishment of this program, and it will continue to serve the needs of area youth and families.

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## Teen Court Panelist – Personal Application Form

### Part 1: Individual Information

**Applicant Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Last**

**First**

**M.I.**

<b>Mailing Address:</b>	<b>Phone Number:</b>	<b>Current School:</b>	<b>Date of Birth:</b>
<b>Town/City &amp; Zip Code:</b>	<b>Email Address:</b>	<b>Current Grade:</b>	<b>Current Date:</b>

### Part 2: Application Questions & Personal Answers

**Please complete all application questions (use the back of this form or extra sheets if more space is needed).**

1. How did you hear about the Ashland County Youth Teen Court?
2. Describe why you are interested in serving on the Teen Court and what skills you possess that will help you serve your community as a representative.
3. What does keeping “An Oath of Confidentiality” mean to you?
4. Teen Court hearings take place on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the county courthouse. Do you have access to reliable transportation to attend each case?
5. Describe three characteristics of a positive role model.
  - 1)
  - 2)
  - 3)
6. How do you plan on being a role model in your school and in the community?

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7. How would you manage homework on nights that Teen Court meets? How will you deal with sports, music or drama practices? List your plan of action:
  
8. List the other community and co-curricular activities you are involved in, including work.
  
9. Have you ever received a citation for any offense? If so, please describe what it was and its outcome.
  
10. Explain why it is important for a Teen Court panelist to have a commitment to attend each case.
  
11. What do you hope to achieve through your involvement in Teen Court?
  
12. Are you willing to make this commitment? YES NO

***“The previous information is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge.”***

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**Applicant Name (Printed)**

**Applicant Signature**

**Date**

Please return this completed form (and 2 references) to Kate Wallner by **April 30<sup>th</sup> at 10PM.**

**Kate Wallner (she/they)**

4-H Youth Development Educator – Ashland County

University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension

201 W Main Street, Courthouse Room 107, Ashland, WI 54806

kate.wallner@wisc.edu --- Office: 715-682-7017 ext. 513 --- Mobile: 715-208-0664

*Thank you for applying to the Ashland County Teen Court!  
You will be contacted regarding next round interviews and/or final selections.*

**REFERENCE FORMS are found at <https://ashland.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-youth-development/teen-court-and-more/>.**

**Ask your references to submit the form by the due date as well.**