

## **Annie Lisowski**

*Teen Court Co-Coordinator*  
4-H Youth Development Educator  
Buffalo County UW-Extension  
Buffalo County Courthouse  
407 S. 2nd St  
PO Box 276  
Alma, WI 54610  
Voice: 608-685-6256  
annie.lisowski@ces.uwex.edu

## **Marie Ritscher**

*Teen Court Co-Coordinator*  
4-H Youth Development Agent  
Pepin County UW-Extension  
Pepin County Government Center  
740 7th Avenue W  
Pox Box 39  
Durand, WI 54736  
Voice: 715-672-5214  
marie.ritscher@ces.uwex.edu

*Your county  
extension office*



**UW**  
**Extension**  
Cooperative Extension

An EEO/AA employer, UW-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and ADA requirements. Please make requests for reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access to educational programs as early as possible preceding the scheduled program, service or activity.

## **2013 Monetary Contributors**

*(As of 10/30/2013)*

Alliance Bank-Mondovi  
Alma Area School  
Alma Knights of Columbus  
Alma Veterinary Clinic SC  
Bauer Built, Inc.  
Bauer's Auto Service  
Bautch Insurance Agency  
Chippewa Valley Dental  
Durand High School  
Gilmanton High School  
Heike Realty  
Jackson A. Keller, DDS  
Marten Transport  
Masons-Of- Wisconsin- #149  
Mondovi High School  
Nelson Lions Club  
Nelson Telephone Cooperative  
Pepin Area Community Club  
Pepin Area School District  
Pepin Hill Evangelical Free Church  
Pepin Lions Club  
RBO Business Services, Inc.  
Richardson Electric  
Riverland Communication, Inc.  
Riverland Energy - Alma  
Security Financial Bank  
Ye Old Schoolhouse Shoppe



*The mission of the Buffalo/Pepin County Teen Court is to join together as a council of professional and community members to find ways to enhance positive youth and family development in both counties. The Teen Court will serve to modify behavior of youthful, first-time offenders by combining positive peer pressure and involvement within our counties, families, schools, and religious organizations to promote youth development and restorative justice.*

# Buffalo/Pepin County Teen Court: Frequently Asked Questions



## What is Teen Court?

Teen Court offers eligible youth an alternative to appearing in Juvenile Court. They have an opportunity to receive a meaningful consequence from a jury of their peers.

## Why a Teen Court?

Teen Court offers eligible youth an opportunity to take responsibility for their actions. It provides positive peer pressure with community based consequences.

## Who is eligible?

The Buffalo/Pepin County Teen Court will serve youth ages 10-16 years who commit first time violations of offenses such as:

- Disorderly Conduct
- No Valid Driver's License
- Damage to Property/Vandalism
- Shoplifting/Retail Theft
- Trespassing
- DNR/Park Offenses, Littering, Curfew, or ATV violations
- Possession of Alcohol, Tobacco or Marijuana
- Truancy
- Unlawful Use of a Technology

Referrals for Teen Court will come from the Court, Human Services, Law Enforcement or the School.

## How Does Teen Court Operate?

1. The offender appears before a panel of three to five teen judge panelists.
2. Panelists will be from a local school district, excluding the offender's school.
3. Panelists have received specialized training in court procedures.
4. A parent or legal guardian is required to attend the session with the offender.
5. Offender must admit the violation offense.
6. Panelists discuss the offense with the offender to determine why the offense occurred and determine the most effective consequences.
6. Panelists may question parents.
7. Panelists decide the consequences which may include essays, community service, apology letter or other innovative sanctions.
8. A coordinator monitors the offender's performance of the sentencing guidelines.
9. Offender pays a small fee towards the cost of Teen Court.
10. All procedures are confidential.
11. If offender successfully completes the work, the case is closed without the offender receiving a conviction record.
12. If offender is unsuccessful in completing sentence the offender will be returned to the referring agency.

## Who benefits from Teen Court?

- ⇒ Youth are given an opportunity for a real second chance to prove that mistakes can be turned into positive choices. When juvenile offenders successfully complete their Teen Court sentence, they will have their case dismissed.
- ⇒ The juvenile becomes responsible for his/her actions.
- ⇒ Community service-learning projects will be more meaningful to the youth and their respective communities.
- ⇒ The community is able to see teens being held accountable for their actions.
- ⇒ Teen judge panelists gain a sense of responsibility and they encourage peers to stop behaviors that reflect all teens. They also have the opportunity to participate in the juvenile justice system and examine possible career opportunities.
- ⇒ Adult volunteers are given the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our youth.