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- YMCA Camp Alexander

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# Teen Leadership

South Wood County Teen Leadership is a hands-on program for high school sophomores to build networks and develop leadership skills to accelerate involvement in their school and community. Its designed for young people to learn more about building, shaping and stewarding a community that works well for all. Since 2006, over 250 students from five local high schools have graduated from Teen Leadership.

Participation includes:

- learning new skills
- building networks between youth and adults
- learning about investing in community through grantmaking
- applying new insights to a community project

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*“A good leader must work together with others if they hope to accomplish a goal.”*

*- Teen Leader*



*“Filling your group with people of different skill sets helps your group more than if you just have people like yourself.”* - Teen Leader

## How does Teen Leadership work?

Meeting once a month, August through May, participants . . .

- Have fun while expanding their world by building relationships with peers from five local school districts
- Experience the importance of teamwork and collaboration, and gain confidence in working together to reach a common goal
- Learn and use adaptive skills (communication, leadership, conflict management, decision making and time management)
- Select, plan and complete a community service project
- Review applications and award a \$2,500 grant for a local project that advances a community that works well for all people
- Discover ways to identify and use community resources toward positive change
- Meet a community leader to learn about leadership in action
- Learn how individuals, organizations, and networks support a community that works well for all people
- Develop a better understanding of the south Wood County area and the role that teens can play in shaping its future

## Schedule

### Aug – Orientation

Introduction to Teen Leadership: interactive sessions, meet community leaders, community project, grantmaking

### Sep – Opening Retreat

Operation Teamwork: team building, values, goals, self-awareness

### Oct – Local History

History & Entrepreneurship: experience the south Wood County area’s historical assets

### Nov – Community Stewardship

Lending a Hand: select a community project

### Dec – Leadership I

Community Leadership in Action: lunch with community leaders

### Jan – Leadership II

Exploring Community Philanthropy: Teen Leaders award a local grant

### Feb – Judicial Systems

Law & Order: lunch with Wood County judges

### Mar – Education, Diversity & Conflict

Embracing our Differences: experience University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

### Apr – Community Project

Contributing Locally: complete community project

### May – Graduation

Recognition Event: celebrate with friends, family, community members

## How do I apply?

Students may apply in the spring of their freshman year for participation during their sophomore year. Application forms are at all high schools in Nekoosa, Pittsville, Port Edwards and Wisconsin Rapids. Complete the form which includes consent signatures of a parent/guardian and the school principal, and provide one letter of recommendation. Mail to Incourage (478 E Grand Ave, Wisconsin Rapids).

The Teen Leadership Advisory Committee selects participants from all schools in the south Wood County area, representing public, private and home schools, diverse backgrounds and various decision-making styles and perspectives. Once selected, a \$50 participant fee is payable at Orientation in August; scholarships may be available for applicants seeking financial assistance for the fee.

## Advisory Committee

Guadalupe Ancel, *Community Representative*  
 Kurt Heuer, *Wisconsin Rapids Police Department*  
 Mike Kumm, *Nekoosa Public Schools*  
 Andrew Fuhrmann, *Student Representative*  
 Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, *Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools*  
 Dawn Vruwink, *Incourage*  
 Zach Vruwink, *City of Wisconsin Rapids*  
 Jeff Whitrock, *Pioneer Bank*  
 Sue Zirnhelt, *Lincoln High School Volunteer Center*

## Contact

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