



# The CHAMPION

April, 2012

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## The Social Host Ordinance

The City of Wadena has joined at least 77 MN cities and 18 MN counties by adopting a social host ordinance. This ordinance holds individuals, regardless of age, responsible for hosting or knowingly allowing or providing a location for underage drinking to occur.

- A Social Host ordinance holds responsible any individual who knows or reasonably should know that alcohol is being consumed or possessed by individuals under the age of 21 at an event or location they have control over.
- A Social Host does not need to supply alcohol or be present at the event or gathering.
- The Social Host ordinance focus is on where underage alcohol possession and/or consumption occurs.
- This ordinance includes both public and private properties.

### *Why be concerned?*

- Underage drinking is linked to teen automobile crashes, alcohol poisoning, sexual assaults, date rape, property damage, unintentional injuries, unintended and alcohol-exposed pregnancies, and other crime and violence. (National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism)
- The brain continues to develop up to the age of 25. During this time, exposing the adolescent brain to alcohol may interrupt key processes of brain development and have long term consequences. (National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism)

It is our goal as a community to strive for a safe, alcohol-free environment for our youth.



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*Our Vision*  
"Choose to be  
Chemical Free"

*Our Mission:*  
Is to improve and  
enhance the health,  
safety, and quality of  
life for our children  
and community by  
reducing substance  
use and abuse.





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**Fast Fact**

**Parents Matter!**

When teenagers were asked who society's most important role models are today, 68% of them said their parents, which ranked number one. When choosing role models, teenagers said they look to people who have these principles: honesty, integrity, loyalty, and truthfulness.

[Benson, P. L. (2008). Step Five; Keep Your Teen's Spark Lit. In Sparks (pp. 119-120). Jossey-Bass.]

**We're on the web!**  
[www.champforwc.org](http://www.champforwc.org)

**What's Coming Up...**



- Menahga Prom:** April 28, **Graduation:** May 25
- Sebeka Prom:** May 12, **Graduation:** May 25
- Verndale Prom:** May 12, **Graduation:** June 1
- Wadena-Deer Creek Prom:** April 28, **Graduation:** May 25
- Town Hall Meeting:** Monday, April 30, Noon-1pm, Pizza Ranch-Wadena

**Ten Tangible Tips for Connecting With Kids**

Discovering opportunities and making time to build relationships with young people in our communities can be challenging. The truth is, kids need to have relationships with caring adults outside of their families, including neighbors, their friends' parents, program leaders, and other community members in order to grow up to be healthy, caring, and responsible adults. So, how do you connect with the young folks in your life?

*Consider incorporating a few of the following tips into your daily routines to begin building relationships and impacting lives.*

1. Text a message of encouragement or a simple "Good Morning! I hope you have a wonderful day!" and do it often. If you don't know how to send texts, ask a teen to teach you how.
2. Offer to tutor a youth through community groups and library programs.
3. Organize informal weekend or evening activities (such as pickup basketball, horseshoes, build-your-own-sundae parties, Monopoly contests) with kids in your neighborhood.
4. Plan and prepare a meal with one of your children. Invite your child's friend to join you.
5. Ask a young person this question: "What book are you reading now? May I borrow it after you're done?" Once you've read it, reconnect to discuss it. You may even consider starting a book club that includes teenagers as well as adults.
6. Contact a school to find out if they need chaperones or volunteers for special events.
7. Whenever you get a chance, ask a teenager for an opinion on something you are struggling with (for example, a conflict in your office, a school policy issue, a moral dilemma).
8. Ask a young person to give you a hand with a home project.
9. Use Facebook, Twitter, and other social-networking platforms to communicate in genuine ways. A word of encouragement is worth a lot in any medium.
10. Make a family "business card" for your household. Include contact information and a message about how you'd like to connect (gardening, going for walks, etc.). Give one to every neighborhood family that has children or teens.

By: Dr. Peter Benson (1946-2011), Positive Youth Development Pioneer.

**In every issue!**

**Something To Try And Talk About**

Here are some ideas for conversations at your next family meal or ride in the car.

- What makes you want to jump up out of bed in the morning?
- What have you done that you are most proud of? Why?
- If you could spend a whole day doing anything you wanted, what would it be?

The benefits of eating together will last long after your meal ends, especially if you make family mealtimes a regular activity.  
<http://family.samhsa.gov/get/mealtime.aspx>