

What does LGBTQIA2s+ stand for?

L: Lesbian

G: Gay

B: Bisexual

T: Transgender

Q: Queer

I: Intersex

A: Asexual

2s: Two-Spirit

+: The countless other identities.

Isn't QUEER a bad word?

For many people, **queer** is a word of pride and the best way to "umbrella" diverse sexualities and genders. It is also the academic term for LGBTQIA2s+.

It used to be a slur, but the **queer** community reclaimed the word. However, it is important to note that for some it's still a slur, and they wouldn't use it, or want it used to describe them. Context is important when using the word **queer**.





About Briarpatch:

Briarpatch Youth Services, Inc. is a private, non-profit organization serving Dane County.

Strengthening the Lives of Youth and Families

Phone: 608.245.2550

Email: contact@briarpatch.org
Web: www.briarpatch.org

2720 Rimrock Road Madison, WI 53713

Group Facilitators:



Ollie Schaal (they/them/theirs)



Emily Walden (she/her/hers)















LGBTQIA2s+ Youth Peer Support Group

email us at tlu@briarpatch.org



What is Teens Like Us, and who is it for?

A Peer Support Group:

The Teens Like Us Program (TLU) provides support and education for queer youth ages 13-18. Founded over 20 years ago, TLU provides a safe place for youth to meet with their peers. The group also serves youth questioning their sexuality as well as youth from LGBT - headed families.

When: Meetings are held every Wednesday from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm.

How to Join: We ask that for the safety and security of all the youth currently involved with Teens Like Us that you email us. They will give you a welcome email which includes a virtual form for you to fill out.

Where:

In-Person at Briarpatch Youth Services 2720 Rimrock Rd. Madison, WI, 53713 **EXCEPT** on the second Wednesday of each month, which will be a virtual group via Zoom

If you are a parent, guardian, or supporting adult, please email us to help get your youth connected.

What to Expect:

How we ensure your safety and privacy:

All participants are asked to sign a confidentiality agreement. All information that youth share with our volunteers and staff will be kept confidential as prescribed by law, with the exception of mandated reporting requirements. These terms are outlined in our Client Confidentiality and Rights Agreements forms.

Group Norms and Expectations:

Our Group Norms are influenced by the youth participating guided by the following principles:

- Take space, make space
- Be culturally conscious and respectful
- Avoid oppressive language of all kinds
- No Gatekeeping
- Provide "Content Notes" or "Trigger Warnings" when possible

Other Services by TLU:

Parents of Queer and Questioning Youth Support Group:

Supporting our kids means supporting their parents and caregivers! This group provides an opportunity for parents to ask questions and learn in a judgement-free space. We ask that all parents come to the space with an open-mind and the intention of learning how to be a supportive parent and ally. **Email us for more information!**

Other LGBTQIA2s+ Resources:





The Trevor Project focuses on ending suicide among LGBTQ youth.

If you or someone you know needs help, we are here for you.



TrevorLifeline
If you're thinking about suicide, you deserve immediate h
Call us anytime.
866.488.7386



TrevorText
Talk to a Trevor counselor via text mes
Text "START" to 678678

Some more introductory terms:

Gender Identity: One's internal sense of being male, female, neither, both, or another gender(s).

Sex Assigned at Birth: The assignment and classification of people as male, female, intersex, or another sex.

Intersex: Someone whose sex characteristics do not fit the typical definitions for "male" or "female" bodies.

Cisgender: One whose sex assigned at Birth matches your gender identity.

Transgender: One whose sex assigned at birth is different from your gender identity.

Asexuality: Asexuality is the lack of sexual attraction to others, or low or absent interest in or desire for sexual activity.

Gatekeeping: When someone takes it upon themselves to decide who does or does not have access or rights to a community or identity