

SUMMER 2025

Ellington Youth Services

SEASONAL NEWSLETTER



About

ADDRESS:

31 Arbor Way, P.O. Box 187
Ellington CT, 06029

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday 8:00am-6:30pm
Tuesday-Thursday
8:00am-4:30pm
Friday CLOSED

PHONE:

(860)-870-3130

WEBSITE:

youth.ellington-ct.gov



Staff

KRISTEN HARP

Director
kharp@ellington-ct.gov

JESSICA MAITLAND

Assistant Director
jmailand@ellington-ct.gov

MARQUE MERCURE

Prevention and Program
Coordinator
mmercure@ellington-ct.gov

SARAH BLAIS

Program Specialist
sblais@ellington-ct.gov

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Ellington Youth Services (EYS) serves the children and the ones that serve children.

Please reach out this summer!

We provide individuals with support for issues that directly affect their ability to live a life of health, healing, and hope. We are committed to offering effective, empathetic services that promote meaningful change.



Join our mailing list!

By postal, email, or both!

We WILL NOT spam you. You will receive seasonal updates on what EYS is offering.

TO JOIN

Click [HERE](#) or scan the QR code



In case you didn't know, our former assistant director made the thoughtful decision to become a full-time mom to her new baby! The vacant positions inspired a department wide 'check-in.' Here is where we're at:

Updates from EYS Staff



KRISTEN HARP
Director

"Our team at EYS has embraced all the changes this past year with incredible positivity and dedication. These transitions have sparked new energy, strengthened our programs, and continue to deepen our commitment to serving the youth and families of Ellington with excellence. I look forward to what lies ahead for Ellington Youth Services."



JESSICA MAITLAND
Assistant Director

"I've learned how to keep the calm amidst the chaos. Completing an intensive yoga teacher program while being interim assistant director wasn't easy, but time with the "little homies" (yep, that's what I call all my students) kept me motivated. I'm excited to bring wellness to the community by introducing yoga & mindfulness to other departments!"



MARQUE MERCURE
Prevention and
Program Coordinator

"The EYS team continues to grow, evolve, learn, care, become inspired, express empathy and nurture the mental health of ourselves and others - which is exactly what we hope flows to the youth and families in the Ellington community from our impactful efforts and hard work. A puzzle takes time, dedication and patience to fit all of the pieces together. I have cherished putting pieces of the "prevention puzzle" together through new connections and partnerships in our town. I look forward to working with those same puzzle pieces and fitting in new pieces as we step into the future."



SARAH BLAIS
Program Specialist

"Having grown up in the Ellington community myself, I know first-hand how much love and care is engrained into the town and those that serve them. I'm so excited to join a team so dedicated to creating positive change within the community and I hope to see as many kiddos as possible this summer for the EYS pop-up programs!"



Community Outreach



Ellington Unified in partnership with Ellington Youth Services believes that everyone can have a sense of belonging within our community by connecting families, schools, and others through activities, advocacy, and support. Our hope is to strengthen the Ellington community for youth with disabilities & their families.



The council for Developing Positive Youth Culture (DPYC), established in 1996, is an ad hoc committee with a mission to create and sustain a positive youth culture for Ellington's youth through collaboration among the community, schools, and town agencies.



NEW MEMBERS NEEDED!

Who We're Looking For:

- **Youth:** If you're a young person who wants to make a difference in your community and be part of a supportive network, we'd love to have you!
- **Adults:** Whether you're a parent, educator, or community leader, your experience and enthusiasm can help guide and inspire our youth.

Developing Positive Youth Culture (DPYC) meetings take place once a month at Ellington Middle School from 2:30 pm - 3:45 pm

To join DPYC and learn more, visit: youth.ellington-ct.gov {click DPYC button on homepage}

WEEKLY UNIFIED EVENTS HAPPENING ALL SUMMER!

Dates, times, and locations will be shared on Facebook

Like + follow + enable notifications so you don't miss out!



Follow us on
[Instagram](#) & [Facebook](#)!



Follow us on
[Instagram](#)!

Community Outreach



EYS Alliance is an Ellington Youth Service student based group offering high school students the opportunity to develop critical leadership tools by making connections to the community through education, awareness, and service. EYS Alliance inspires the youth to find their voice & develop skills to successfully navigate life.

EARN VOLUNTEER HOURS + CONNECT WITH THE COMMUNITY!

MONTHLY MEETINGS:

Mondays

Meeting agendas will alternate between **event planning tasks** and **fun things for members to do!**

6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Ellington Senior Center

SEASONAL EVENTS:

Trail of Treats

EYS Alliance prepares their own haunted booth for one of Ellington's favorite events!

Winter Social

EYS Alliance & Senior Center members will play games & eat food!

EMS Dodgeball Tournament

Our annual EMS dodgeball tournament is a night of music, prizes, and fun for middle schoolers.

Follow

[@eyesalliance](https://www.instagram.com/eyesalliance)
on instagram
for meeting
reminders:



SCAN TO JOIN

Programming



Safe Sitter

Safe Sitter essentials with CPR is a class designed to prepare students to be safe when they are home alone, watching younger siblings, or babysitting. **Bring a lunch!**

June 25

9:00 am - 3:00 pm
\$75.00

August 21

9:00 am - 3:00 pm
\$75.00



Safe @ Home

This one day program is designed to prepare students to be safe when they are home alone.

June 23

12:30 pm - 2:00 pm
\$50.00

August 18

12:30 pm - 2:00 pm
\$50.00

E-Sports in Ellington



Content Creation & Production

Participants will learn the basics of video editing, live streaming & digital storytelling. Through interactive lessons and hands-on projects, attendees will gain skills in video production, audio editing & graphic design, using tools and platforms relevant to today's digital creators. All supplies provided. Pizza & light refreshments available.

6/26 • 4:30 pm - 7:30 pm • Ages 7-13 • \$40

Game Creation & Coding

Participants will develop problem-solving and critical thinking skills while learning basic computer programming. Using platforms like Scratch, Minecraft Education Edition, and Roblox, attendees will create their own games, engage in fun coding challenges, and collaborate with peers to showcase their progress. All supplies provided. Pizza & light refreshments available.

7/31 • 4:30 pm - 7:30 pm • Ages 7-13 • \$40

Game Night Social

Participants will enjoy a variety of popular multiplayer games in a relaxed setting, fostering teamwork and social interaction. Pizza, drinks, and group-based activities will help highlight the joy of gaming together and the power of shared experiences.

8/22 • 4:30 pm - 7:30 pm • Ages 7-13 • \$40

School Readiness Camps



Ready Set Kindergarten is a great program for kids to meet new friends and learn skills needed to start the new school year off right. Register your child for the school they will be attending in the fall.

This is a two-hour version of a preschool day designed for incoming preschoolers; imagine crafts, making friends, snack, routines, circle-time, and more.

Program Announcement: [Ready, Set, Kindergarten!](#) & [Preschool, Here I Come!](#)

Dates and locations for these exciting early childhood programs are subject to change due to ongoing improvements at all Ellington elementary schools.

These enhancements are part of our commitment to providing the best possible environment for our students and are a step forward for the upcoming school year!

We are actively working with the [Ellington Board of Education](#) to identify the best available options and will share updated details as soon as they are finalized.

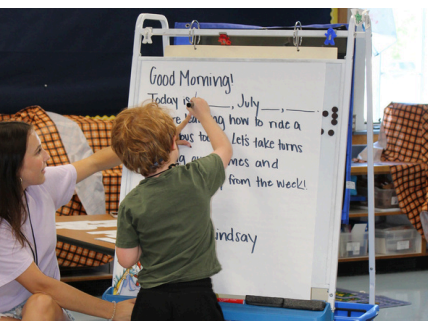
For the most up-to-date information, please email us at youthservices@ellington-ct.gov or enable social media notifications

Thank you for your patience and support as we prepare to welcome your little learners!

ALL EYS PROGRAMS OPEN FOR REGISTRATION ON [ACTIVENET](#)

All programs are open to all residents regardless of economic status.

We are here to help! Contact us for information on assistance.



Programming: *incoming for fall 2025 school year* **K-2nd graders** and *incoming for fall 2025 school year* **3-6th graders**

Scavenger Hunt in the Park

Follow the clues that lead to different pieces of the treasure hidden in Arbor Park!

Monday 6/23 • 10:00 am - 11:00 am • \$10

Junior Scientists

EYS turns into a discovery lab where mad scientists will get to action!

Tuesday 6/24 • 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm • \$15

Summer TIE DYE

Learn about & make a shirt, socks, and bucket hat!

Thursday 6/26 • 10:00 am - 11:00 am • \$20

Music Discovery: Play, Read, Create!

Percussion instruments, sheet music & rhythm!

Thursday 6/26 • 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm • \$15

Builders Escape

Escape the room through clues and challenges!!

Tuesday 7/1 • 10:00 am - 11:00 am • \$15

Color Mixing Magic

Learn the magic of colors with experiments & games!

Tuesday 7/1 • 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm • \$15

Program plans coming soon!

It takes time & effort for our high school instructors to properly create a successful, fun class!

Thursday 7/3 • 10:00 am - 11:00 am • \$ • K-2

Slime Workshop

How do different ingredients make different slimes?

Thursday 7/3 • 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm • \$20

CLAY Craft n' Play

Pendants for necklaces, beads for bracelets, charms for keychains, coasters for home, etc.

Monday 7/7 • 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm • \$20

Program plans coming soon!

It takes time & effort for our high school instructors to properly create a successful, fun class!

Thursday 7/8 • 10:00 am - 11:00 am • \$ • K-2

Park Games

We'll bring the games and you bring the energy!

Wednesday 7/9 • 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm • \$10

Program plans coming soon!

It takes time & effort for our high school instructors to properly create a successful, fun class!

Thursday 7/10 • 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm • \$ • K-2

Tabletop Titans

Play the classic board games we all know and love!

Monday 7/14 • 10:00 am - 11:00 am • \$10

Little Gardeners

A planting lesson and crafty class combined!

Monday 7/14 • 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm • \$20

Program plans coming soon!

It takes time & effort for our high school instructors to properly create a successful, fun class!

Wednesday 7/16 • 10:00 am - 11:00 am • \$ • K-2

Fidget Fun

DIY stress ball, fidget spinner, bead ring & more!

Tuesday 7/15 • 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm • \$15

Brick Building: Would You Rather, Show & Find

Lego building, team bonding & scavenger hunting!

Monday 7/21 • 10:00 am - 11:00 am • \$20

SUMMER STAFF SPOTLIGHT



EYS hires high school-aged staff to create and teach programs! Our teachers gain leadership skills + interactive work experience, while our students meet GOOD role models!

Build a Bouquet

Craft 5 kinds of flowers, build a bouquet, bring it home!

Monday 7/21 • 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm • \$15

Anything But a Brush Paint Class

The title is explanatory!

Tuesday 7/22 • 10:00 am - 11:00 am • \$15

Scrapbook Storytelling

Scrapbook techniques & supplies provided!

Wednesday 7/23 • 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm • \$20

Game Night

Rotate through stations and climb up the levels.

Monday 7/28 • 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm • \$10

Program plans coming soon!

It takes time & effort for our high school instructors to properly create a successful, fun class.

Wednesday 7/30 • 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm • \$ • K-2

ALL PROGRAMS OPEN FOR REGISTRATION ON ACTIVENET

Programming: *incoming for fall 2025 school year* **K-2nd graders** and *incoming for fall 2025 school year* **3-6th graders**

Going for a Color Hunt

Calling all young detectives!

Monday 8/4 • 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm • \$10

Tiny Tassel Bag Making

Design and decorate a canvas tote bag!

Thursday 8/7 • 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm • \$20

DIY Stickers, Markers, and Crayons

Art class but make your own supplies!

Monday 8/11 • 10:00 am - 11:00 am • \$20



Tie - Dye

Learn about & make a shirt, socks & bucket hat!

Tuesday 8/12 • 4:00-5:00pm • \$20

Park Games 2.0

A favorite: outdoor games with our staff!

Thursday 8/14 • 10:00 am - 11:00 am • \$10

Origami Night

An intro course to learn fun basics!

Thursday 8/14 • 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm • \$15

Dream Catchers & Chasers

DIY dreamcatcher and mood board making

Monday 8/18 • 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm • \$15

Capture the Flag

Capture the flag in the park!

Tuesday 8/19 • 10:00 am - 11:00 am • \$10

BEADventure Challenge

Earn beads throughout the obstacle course!

Tuesday 8/19 • 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm • \$15

Slime Time

How do different things make different slimes?

Wednesday 8/20 • 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm • \$10

ALL PROGRAMS OPEN FOR REGISTRATION ON ACTIVENET

All programs are open to all residents regardless of economic status.

We are here to help! Contact us for information on assistance.

Teen Programming

The survey results say that our teens are LONELY and we want to change that by providing a space and activities where they can connect.

FREE

This summer, we want to get teens into our building to hear what they need more of in the Ellington community.

7/2

Wednesday 7/2
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
high school students

7/16

Wednesday 7/16
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
high school students

7/31

Thursday 7/31
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
high school students

8/13

Wednesday 8/13
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
high school students

bring some friends + get out of the house + come hang for an hour

FREE SNACKS, GAMES, CRAFTS, AND MORE!

Programming

Family Fun Summer Series

All siblings, grown-ups, parents invited!
Price is for entire family. \$20 PER CLASS.

MAKE & PLAY: BOARD GAME BUILDERS

Made by the family for the family!

Monday 6/23 • 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

BRACELET MAKING

All supplies provided!

Tuesday 7/8 • 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

FAMILY FACE OFF: GENERATIONAL GAME SHOW

Wednesday 7/23 • 10:00 am - 11:00 am

MINUTE TO WIN IT

The more random, the more fun!

Tuesday 8/5 • 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

UP, UP, AND AWAY

Silly balloon-based games!

Thursday 8/21 • 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm



LOCATION FOR ALL SUMMER PROGRAMS:

EYS Office (31 Arbor Way)



Playgroup Summer Pop-ups 6 months - 4 year olds can play with their grown-ups, other littles, and EYS' high-school aged staff. \$10 PER CLASS.

play-doh pals

Wednesday 6/25 • 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

teeny tellers

Wednesday 7/2 • 10:00 pm - 11:00 am

berry cute & beary fun

Wednesday 7/9 • 10:00 am - 11:00 am

mini artists

Tuesday 7/15 • 10:00 am - 11:00 am

wee wanderers

Tuesday 7/22 • 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

under the sea

Tuesday 7/29 • 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

happy rainbows

Wednesday 8/6 • 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

baby builders

Tuesday 8/12 • 10:00 am - 11:00 am

program plans coming soon!

Monday 8/18 • 10:00 am - 11:00 am



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