

# 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](http://youth.ellington-ct.gov)



### Staff

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## EYS IS GOING DIGITAL! Join our mailing list!

Ellington Youth Services has been in existence for over 20 years. Our mission is to provide programs and services that help Ellington youth connect to their families, schools, peers and community. With this in mind, our community has moved online, and we're moving with them! Join our monthly newsletter to continue receiving information in support of your community!

**TO JOIN**

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



# Important Updates

We are **excited** to share a few important updates for the upcoming seasons:

**GOING DIGITAL**: be sure to sign up for our mailing list

**REDUCED PROGRAM PRICING** : we lowered our program fees to make EYS Programs more accessible for our community.

**EVENING PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS**: we're introducing evening options for Pre-K children to offer additional enrichment opportunities

**EXPANDED AGE GROUP** : starting in the Spring we will be adapting our age groups to give more opportunities to participate.

## Playgroup

### PLAYGROUP Drop-Off

Drop the little ones off for 90 minutes of safe learning, arts & crafts, stories, snack, and socialization with other 2 - 5 year old children. Learning centers and various activities are prepared each week to ensure that children are engaged and having fun!!

Monday  
9:00-10:30am  
2.5-5 years

**WINTER SESSION:** 1/26, 2/2, 2/9, 2/23, 3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 3/33 (NO CLASS 2/16)  
\$135

**SPRING SESSION:** 4/20, 4/27, 5/4, 5/11  
\$60

### PLAYGROUP With Grown Ups

Children between 6 months and 5 years of age will have an hour to learn and play with the comfort of their grown-ups being there to join the fun! EYS staff prepare weekly crafts, activities, stories, manipulatives, sensory & free play. Snack is provided.

Tuesday  
9:00-10:00am  
6 months-5 years

**WINTER SESSION:** 1/27, 2/3, 2/10, 2/17, 2/24, 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31  
\$100

**SPRING SESSION:** 4/21, 4/28, 5/5, 5/12  
\$40

### PLAYGROUP With Grown Ups

Children between 18 months and 5 years of age will have an 90 minutes to learn and play with the comfort of their grown-ups being there to join the fun! EYS staff prepare weekly crafts, activities, stories, manipulatives, sensory & free play. Snack is provided.

Wednesday  
9:00-10:30am  
18 months-5 years

**WINTER SESSION:** 1/28, 2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 2/25, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25, 4/1  
\$120

**SPRING SESSION:** 4/22, 4/29, 5/6, 5/13  
\$48

### LOCATION FOR ALL PLAYGROUP PROGRAMS:

Old Crystal Lake Schoolhouse (216 Sandy Beach Rd Ellington CT)



## 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.*

# Evening Preschool Programs



**TUESDAYS**

**1/27, 2/3, 2/10, 2/17, 2/24**  
**AGES 2.5-5 YEARS**  
**5:00-6:00 PM**  
**\$5 EACH CLASS**

Mini Mess Makers invites preschool-aged children to explore hands-on sensory play, beginner art skills, and open-ended crafting in a fun, encouraging environment. We handle the mess... so you don't have to! Kids create, discover, squish, sprinkle, swirl, and craft their way through playful projects that change weekly and keep them engaged from start to finish.

Perfect for: curious kiddos, tiny artists, sensory seekers, and anyone who loves to explore with their hands and imagination.

**Parent attendance required for programs**

**WEDNESDAYS**

**3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25, 4/1**  
**AGES 2.5-5 YEARS**  
**5:00-6:00 PM**  
**\$5 EACH CLASS**



Join EYS for sibling game night! Kids will play board games and outdoor games with staff while their siblings attend their own programs! These pop up's will run on the same dates as to the left

**OPEN TO GRADES  
KINDERGARTEN TO SIXTH**  
**\$5 EACH CLASS**  
(bone price for all siblings)



## Parent Roundtable

### **WEDNESDAYS**

**4/22, 4/29, 5/6, 5/13, 5/20**  
**GRADES PK-1**  
**5:00-6:00 PM**  
**FREE**

Relax in our conference room while your preschooler, kindergartener or first grader has fun with our teen staff in the multipurpose room during their pop up! You have the choice of enjoying the hour of peace or engaging with other parents of preschoolers through first graders. A topic discussion, along with materials will be facilitated should you wish to participate and network.

**Week 1: Family Routines & Time Management**

**Week 2: Community & Resources**

**Week 3: Social Emotional Learning in the Home**

**Week 4: Social Skills & Bullying Warning Signs**

**Week 5: Screen Time Boundaries: Viewing of Screenagers**

REGISTER ON ACTIVENET OR EMAIL  
MARQUE MERCURE AT  
**MMERCURE@ELLINGTON-CT.GOV**

# WINTER PROGRAMS

**This season, sign up for one class or all 5 per session! All classes are \$5-\$10 each!**

ALL DATES ARE  
CLICKABLE LINKS TO  
ACTIVENET



## THURSDAYS

1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26  
**GRADES K-2**  
**5:00-6:00 PM**  
**\$10 EACH CLASS**

Adventure Explorers invites students to investigate the world around them through hands-on activities, creative challenges, and playful exploration. Each class blends problem-solving, teamwork, movement, and discovery-based learning—perfect for curious kids who love to try new things and jump into action.



## MONDAYS

3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30  
**GRADES K-2**  
**5:00-6:00 PM**  
**\$10 EACH CLASS**

Young scientists explore rainstorms, sunshine, snowflakes, and everything in between through hands-on experiments and creative making. Kids will build, create and discover how weather affects the world around us. This engaging program encourages curiosity, observation skills, and playful learning—perfect for our youngest budding meteorologists!



## WEDNESDAYS

1/28, 2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 2/25  
**GRADES 3-6**  
**5:00-6:00 PM**  
**\$10 EACH CLASS**

This program combines the excitement of STEM challenges with sensory-rich activities that spark curiosity and creativity. Students dive into building, testing, mixing, and problem-solving through hands-on projects designed to boost teamwork, critical thinking, and confidence. Each class blends tactile exploration with real-world science, making learning feel fun, active, and unforgettable.



## TUESDAYS

3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31  
**GRADES 3-6**  
**5:00-6:00 PM**  
**\$10 EACH CLASS**

Creative Makers Studio invites students to explore art in bold, hands-on ways. Students experiment with new materials, learn fun techniques, and bring their ideas to life in a supportive, high-energy environment. This program celebrates originality, problem-solving, and the joy of creating something totally unique.



# SPRING PROGRAMS & SINGLE CLASSES



**Superhero Training Camp** invites students to build their super skills through movement, imagination, teamwork, and creative crafts. Each class blends activities that help kids grow their confidence and coordination. Little heroes will leap, zoom, design, and save the day—one mission at a time!

**WEDNESDAYS**  
[4/22, 4/29, 5/6, 5/13, 5/20](#)  
**GRADES PK-1**  
 5:00-6:00 PM  
 \$10 EACH CLASS

CHECK OUT OUR  
 PARENT PROGRAM  
 ON PAGE 3! SAME  
 DAYS & TIMES

 ALL DATES ARE  
 CLICKABLE LINKS TO  
 ACTIVENET



**Mixed Media Makers** invites young artists to encourage imagination, experimentation, and hands-on creation. Students will learn how different materials work together to create unique, expressive artwork. This program builds confidence, sparks creativity, and celebrates the magic of mixing it all up!

**THURSDAYS**  
[4/23, 4/30, 5/7, 5/14, 5/21](#)  
**GRADES 2-4**  
 5:00-6:00 PM  
 \$10 EACH CLASS



**My Space My Style** Students design, create, and personalize décor for their own spaces. Each session blends creativity, hands-on crafting, and simple design skills as students make unique décor items. This program empowers tweens to express their style, experiment with color and materials, and transform their room with projects they'll be excited to take home and display.

**TUESDAYS**  
[4/21, 4/28, 5/5, 5/12, 5/19](#)  
**GRADES 5-7**  
 5:00-6:00 PM  
 \$10 EACH CLASS

## DESIGN A SLIME

[2/2](#)  
**GRADES 3-6**  
 5:00-6:00 PM  
 \$10

Kids will have access to all of EYS' slime materials to create their own slime!

## PAINTED PEBBLES

[2/9](#)  
**GRADES K-2**  
 5:00-6:00 PM  
 \$10

Kid will engage in a scavenger hunt for the perfect rocks before painting them

## CUP CAKES

[4/27](#)  
**GRADES 5-7**  
 5:00-6:00 PM  
 \$10

Kids will get to make vanilla or chocolate mug cakes and then paint a mug

## KINETIC ADVENTURES

[5/11](#)  
**GRADES 2-4**  
 5:00-6:00 PM  
 \$10

Kids will make their own kinetic sand and then play with molds and forms!

## FLOWER POWER

[5/18](#)  
**GRADES PK-1**  
 5:00-6:00 PM  
 \$10

Kids will play in the dirt and create their own flowers!

WE'RE  
 INTRODUCING  
 NEW  
 AGE GROUPS

In order to best serve our kids, we've decided to trial smaller age groups, so every child can truly thrive while at EYS

## 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.

# Classes & Community for 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> Graders



**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.



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### EMS Dodgeball Tournament

Our annual EMS dodgeball tournament is back! It will be a great night of music, prizes, and fun for middle schoolers. Sign up sheets can be found with Mrs. Shaw.

**March 19**

7:00~9:30pm

Ellington High School

## UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Mondays

6:30-7:30pm

Ellington Senior Center

- **February 2**
- **March 2**
- **April 6**
- **May 4**



**Monday 6/15**

**9:00 AM - 2:30 PM**

**GRADES 6-8**

**\$75**

**EYS (31 ARBOR WAY)**

### 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!**



**Monday 6/15**

**3:00 - 4:30 PM**

**GRADES 4-6**

**\$50**

**EYS (31 ARBOR WAY)**

### Safe @ Home

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



## STAINED GLASS

**1/26**

**GRADES 7-12**

**5:00-6:00 PM**

**\$5**

Teens will have their pick of stained glass templates to customize their own stained glass window hangings

## CARRY ON CANVAS

**2/23**

**GRADES 7-12**

**5:00-6:00 PM**

**\$5**

Teens will paint a canvas tote bag

## SELF CARE BOX

**3/5**

**GRADES 7-12**

**5:00-6:00 PM**

**\$5**

Teens will paint and accessorize their own wooden chest to store their favorite items in

## POLAROID FRAMES

**4/20**

**GRADES 7-12**

**5:00-6:00 PM**

**\$5**

Teens will work with clay to create picture and polaroid frames that can be painted and designed to match their style!



ALL DATES ARE  
CLICKABLE LINKS TO  
ACTIVENET

# Esports in Ellington



## GAME CREATION & CODING

A five week EYS core competencies class with **Affinity Esports!**

This track teaches participants how to safely create engaging digital content and develop a unique online presence. Participants will learn the basics of video editing and live streaming. Through interactive lessons and hands-on projects, attendees will gain all of these skills that are used by today's digital creators! Register on activenet.

**Thursdays 3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2, 4/9**  
**4:30 pm - 6:00 pm • Ages 9-14 • \$125**

\*Dinner will be served between sessions for participants enrolled in both classes\*



## MINECRAFT BUILDERS

A five week EYS hands-on series with **Affinity Esports!**

Participants will jump into Minecraft gameplay with build battles and team challenges that develop creativity, strategy, and leadership skills all while focusing on wellness and internet safety. All supplies provided. Register on activenet.

**Thursdays 3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2, 4/9**  
**6:15 pm - 7:45 pm • Ages 7-14 • \$125**



## NEW! ESPORTS DAY CAMP

CLICKABLE LINK TO ACTIVENET



**EYS is offering Gamers Retreat, a 4 day camp experience in partnership with Affinity Esports over April Break**

## GAMER'S RETREAT

A diverse and socially driven camp, kids will be able to explore gaming genres, build social skills through team play, and develop positive gaming habits in a fun and balanced environment.

**Monday April 13 - Thursday April 16**  
**9:00am - 1:00pm**  
**\$225**

**Registration Deadline: March 30**

**EYS will be providing extended care from 1 - 3pm\*. Participants attending extended care will be required to bring a pack lunch**  
**Additional cost of \$25 for extended care**

\*At least 5 participants must be enrolled in extended care for it to be provided\*

search 'Game Retreat extended care' on activenet to register

# Community Prevention Outreach



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.

To join DPYC and learn more, visit: [youth.ellington-ct.gov](http://youth.ellington-ct.gov)  
{click DPYC button on homepage}



## MEETINGS:

Starting in January, we'll be moving to monthly meetings with alternating times to better serve our community. One month meetings will be held at **Ellington Middle School** at 2:45 PM, and alternating months will take place at **Hall Memorial Library** at 6:00 PM. This change reflects our commitment to providing times that work for different schedules and allowing more community members to participate in shaping positive youth culture in Ellington.

## YOU MAY HAVE SEEN US!

Keep an eye out for our most recent marketing campaign at **Big Y** shopping carts addressing social host law. This initiative helps educate our community about the legal responsibilities and consequences of providing alcohol to minors.



## UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE:

- **January 12, 2:45pm @ EMS**
- **February 9, 6:00pm @ HML**
- **March 23, 2:45pm @ EMS**
- **April 20, 6:00pm @ HML**
- **May 18, 2:45pm @ EMS**
- **June 15, 6:00pm @ HML**

## PARTNERSHIPS:

### Walk and Roll

DPYC partnered with youth from the **Wesleyan Church** for their Walk and Roll event, raising awareness for those facing accessibility challenges. Youth volunteers created and facilitated an engaging trivia game that educated the public about challenges faced by individuals with mobility aids and disabilities, along with safe storage practices.

### Coffee with a Cop Coat Drive

DPYC partnered with **Trooper Kelly Mazza and Luann's Bakery** for their Coffee with a Cop Coat Drive! DPYC provided mental health resources and keychains with coping skills to Trooper Mazza in efforts to support families in the community. We are incredibly grateful for this partnership and Trooper Mazza's dedication to Ellington's prevention coalition.

**We're launching new initiatives and we want youth voices at the table! If you're a young person ready to make a difference in Ellington, or know someone who is, we'd love to hear from you. We're expanding youth leadership opportunities, so come be part of what's next!**