

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

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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
 (one 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



WEDNESDAYS

4/22, 4/29, 5/6, 5/13, 5/20

GRADES PK-1

5:00-6:00 PM

\$10 EACH CLASS

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!

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

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!



THURSDAYS

4/23, 4/30, 5/7, 5/14, 5/21

GRADES 2-4

5:00-6:00 PM

\$10 EACH CLASS

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!



TUESDAYS

4/21, 4/28, 5/5, 5/12, 5/19

GRADES 5-7

5:00-6:00 PM

\$10 EACH CLASS

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.

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 6th to 12th 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.



@eysalliance



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
{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.

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**

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.



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!