



the NOODLE

Open up and say AHHHH!!!



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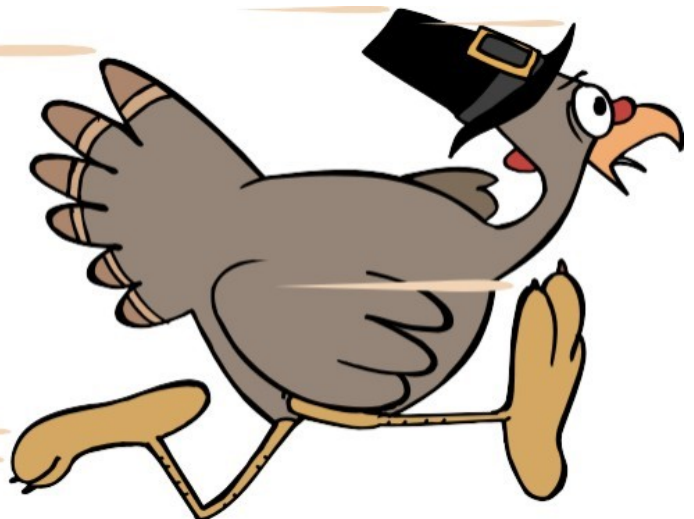
November 2017

Welcome to the November 2017 edition of *The Noodle*, written and published by the Florida Youth Council!!! For this issue of *The Noodle*, members of the FYC were asked to write about their favorite Thanksgiving memory. This topic allows members to

share their thoughts about their favorite Thanksgiving memory. We hope you will take a few minutes out of your busy schedule to learn about our experiences and enjoy our thoughts and opinions in this November 2017 edition of *The Noodle*!

Current Members:

Shevie Barnes
Derek Carraway
Rocky Castro
Megan Germain
Ian Horowitz
Josh Tapia
Dakota Smoot
Christina Waldron
Serena Wetmore





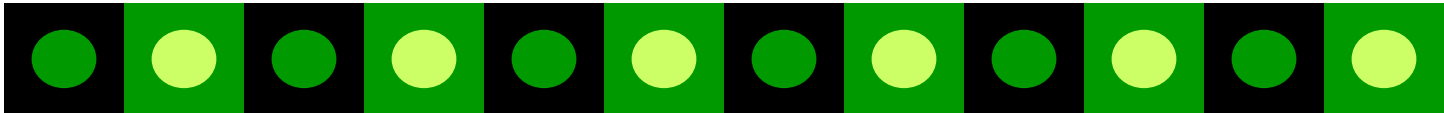
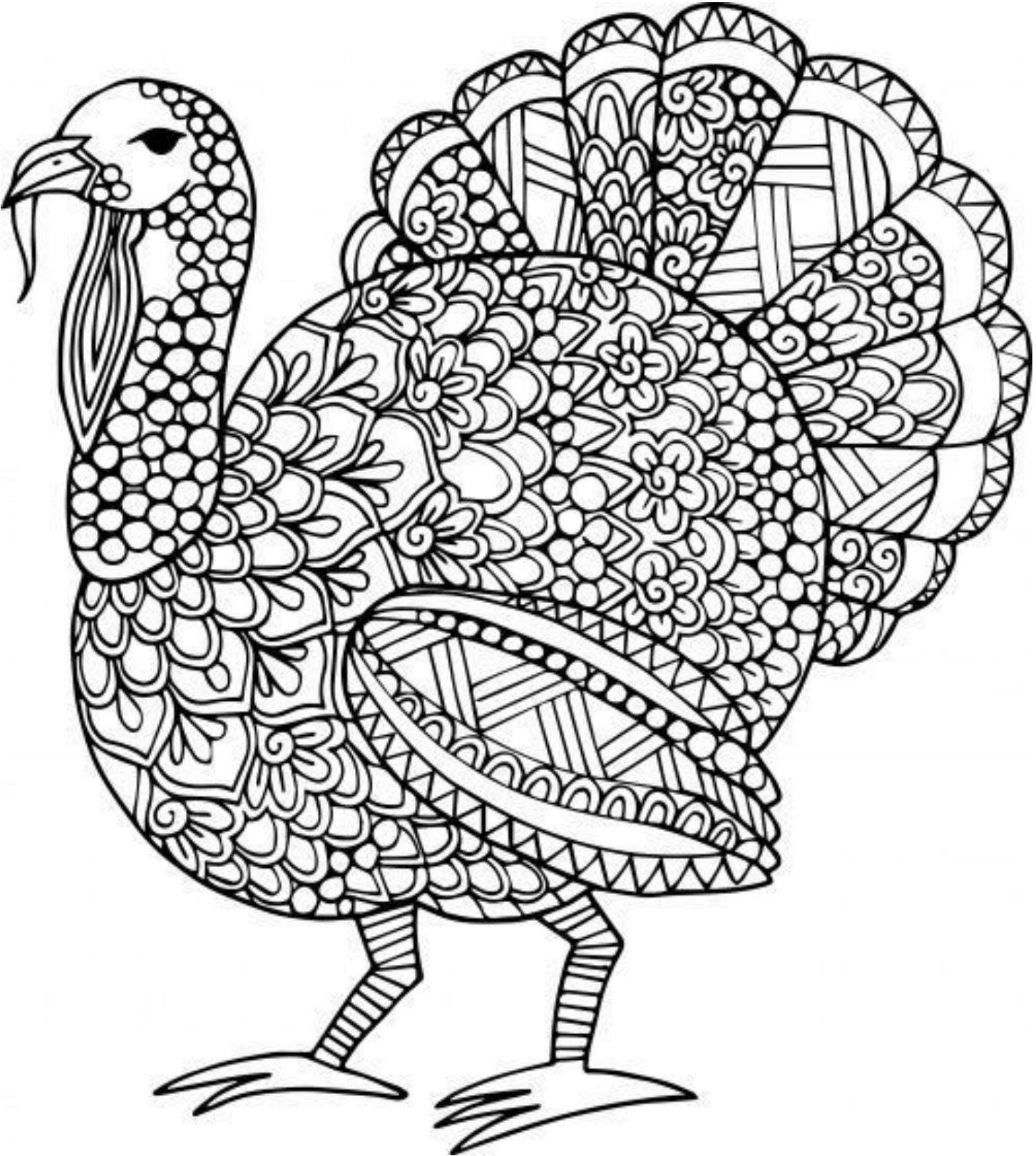
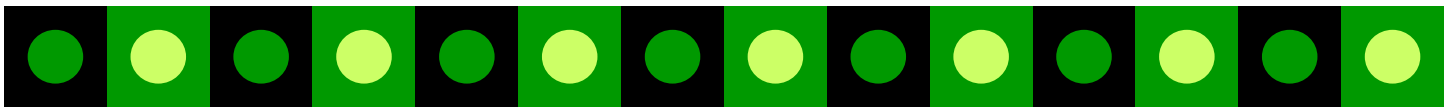
My Best Thanksgiving Memory

The holidays are always a fun time of the year for me. I enjoy spending time with family that I don't normally get to spend time with throughout the year because of work, school, and other things. I really enjoy the new memories we make together catching up on things and prepping for the Thanksgiving meal. But there's always one thing I enjoy doing over all things, and that's the meat cutting.

Yeah, yeah. You might think it is weird that that's my favorite memory, but it's what I love to do! When I lost my vision there were a lot of things I had to adjust to and accept that I couldn't do anymore. But when my vision returned when I was thirteen, it was the first year since I was seven that I got to help with the meal prep. I got to stir the pot and prep the table. And I got to make the lemonade and take the food out of the oven. But my favorite thing to do was to cut the meat and serve, because I got to use a dangerous tool like the cutting knife. Yeah, it might seem little to you, but to me it was huge, because before then I wasn't trusted to use it because everyone was worried I'd get hurt, and blah, blah, blah. At that moment it was like "I'm finally a grown up!" and I even had the idea of "Finally, I'm a normal kid." I cherish that very much.

Yeah, that memory might not be that important to anyone else. But to me it means the world! I will cherish that for all my life. Happy holidays everyone!!!

By Josue Tapia





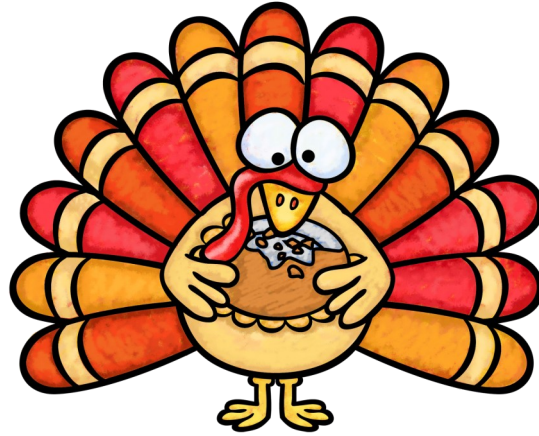
A Family Thanksgiving

A quote by Theodore Roosevelt, our 26th President, states "Let us remember that, as much has been given us, much will be expected from us, and that true homage comes from the heart as well as from the lips, and shows itself in deeds."

I have a family that can attest to the sincerity of President Roosevelt's words. This family is not related to me by blood, but despite this, I consider them to be my close family. These men and women are the firefighters that my father has worked with since I was a baby.

My most cherished Thanksgiving Day memory is the year my family had Thanksgiving dinner at the fire station. All the families of the firefighters came together for a potluck dinner, and my father made a delicious fried turkey. After dinner, all the mothers came together and searched through tons of department store advertisements for the best Black Friday deals. All of the kids ran around the station playing on the trucks, while the dads sprawled out on the recliners and watched football on the big screen. However, no matter how much fun and relaxation we enjoyed, the firefighters were always ready when the call of duty sounded and they rushed to save a home from a burning turkey or help a dad who cut off his finger while carving the turkey. I will forever love and cherish my memories of Thanksgiving dinner at the fire station.

By Rocky Castro.



Mom's Pie

Thanksgiving is my mother's favorite holiday. Why? Probably because she has an excuse to cook for a small army. I remember waking up in the morning with the smell of baking turkey in the air. Oh, and pie. My mom makes the best sweet potato pie. That was always my favorite part! I love sweet potato pie. My mom would always make 8 pies; yes, 8 pies, every Thanksgiving: four sweet potato and four pumpkin pies. Surprisingly enough there was never any leftover pie! They were the star of the show for my mom. I know to most people pie is not worthy of a favorite Thanksgiving memory. However, the reason why it's mine is because my mother loves to cook, and on Thanksgiving she can cook for everyone. I just love seeing her happy.

By Megan Germain



Happy
Turkey Day



My Memories of Thanksgiving

My favorite Thanksgiving memory is really any of the last few for my family. Thanksgiving is the one holiday where everyone on my mother's side of the family gets together, and we just enjoy each other's company. We play games, we sing songs, we sit, we talk, we laugh, and we love. The last Thanksgiving we even did an all-family mannequin challenge. Even though about half of us did not stay still, it was so fun. During this time, all differences are put aside and all you saw were smiles and joy that we were all together. A few Thanksgivings ago the activity of choice was karaoke, which is amazing for me, because I love to sing. It was the first time my dad actually tried singing a few things. Therefore, each Thanksgiving in my family is one that is very special, because my year would not be the same without it.

By, Shevie Barnes



I CAME IN



LIKE A BUTTERBALL!!!



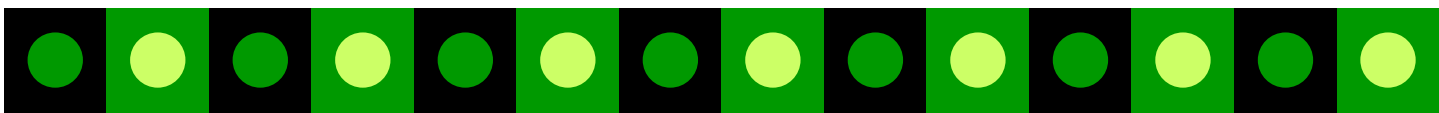
Two Kinds of Thanksgivings

One year, it snowed on Thanksgiving in Kentucky. Sometimes we would go sledding on the flood wall at a golf course. We had Thanksgiving dinner for our family. There were fourteen relatives that came to our house.

When we moved to Florida, our Thanksgiving changed completely. We no longer had relatives to ask to dinner and we started to go to Disney. We would go to Disney and eat dinner at one of the restaurants. We would also go to the shows and ride the rides. We would go to Epcot and MGM sometimes. We would also go to Busch Gardens and Sea World.

We would eat turkey or ham with all the fixings and we would watch movies about Thanksgiving. We would also watch the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade every year. Our family loves the beach, and sometimes we go there for Thanksgiving dinner. We love to watch for dolphins, and if we get lucky, see a couple during our visit. If our favorite football team is playing on Thanksgiving, we watch those games and root for our teams.

By Christina Waldron,



How Do I Become Part of The Florida Youth Council?

The Florida Youth Council is a group of youth (between the ages of 15 and 17) and emerging leaders (between the ages of 18 and 30) with disabilities or special health care needs that live in Florida.

The Florida Youth Council is all about getting youth and emerging leaders involved in self advocacy, peer mentoring and other activities that will improve the quality of life for youth and emerging leaders with disabilities in Florida. The program empowers youth and emerging leaders to decide what issues are important to their generation, to discuss those issues in their state and local communities, and to develop strategies to address them.

We are seeking a group of enthusiastic, motivated youth and emerging leaders to participate. If you would like to take a leadership role in advocating for youth and emerging leaders in Florida, please visit The Florida Youth Council website at www.floridayouthcouncil.com. The program is open to application year round. We hope to hear from you soon!



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