



# the NOODLE

Open up and say AHHHH!!!



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**W**elcome to the April 2020 edition of *The Noodle*, written and published by the FYC. For this issue of *The Noodle*, members of the FYC were asked to respond to the question, “*What is your favorite Easter memory?*” This topic allowed members to share their thoughts on Easter. 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 edition of *The Noodle*!



## Current Members:

John Baldino  
Shevie Barnes  
Derek Carraway  
Alexander Gonzalez  
Leah Gorman  
Emma Massey  
Dakota Smoot  
Josh Tapia  
Christina Waldron  
Serena Wetmore  
Brandon White  
Niki Germain - FYC  
Youth Advisor





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## Easter Special

My favorite Easter memory is from when I was a kid. My parents used to put powdered flour on the floor so it would look like bunnies had hopped to the kitchen, where massive Easter egg baskets lay filled with Peeps marshmallow bunnies, jelly beans, and more candy.

That Easter memory is a very fond one to me, because it also reminds us that this celebration is a time to hang out with friends and loved ones. It has always been a tradition to attend church and then afterwards a large brunch at my grandmother's house including my grandmother, uncle, mom, dad, brother and me. There is always mashed potatoes, chicken, stuffing and dessert.

Of course the best part about Easter is egg hunting, because when I was a kid I loved to grab a basket and pick up colorful eggs and shake them to see what was inside. One Easter my family and I were participating in an Easter event and I decided to be sneaky and get into a tub filled with Easter eggs.

For me, honestly, if I were to have a future wish for this certain holiday it would be that I could pass my own traditions down to my kids, and that they will learn that it is important to appreciate everything they have while also learning that spending quality time with family and friends during this time is vital, so one day they can pass down their Easter traditions to their own kids.

In conclusion, Easter is a special holiday that should never be taken for granted, and we should all be thankful each and every day for what we have and cherish the little moments and people that are in our lives.

*By Emma Massey*

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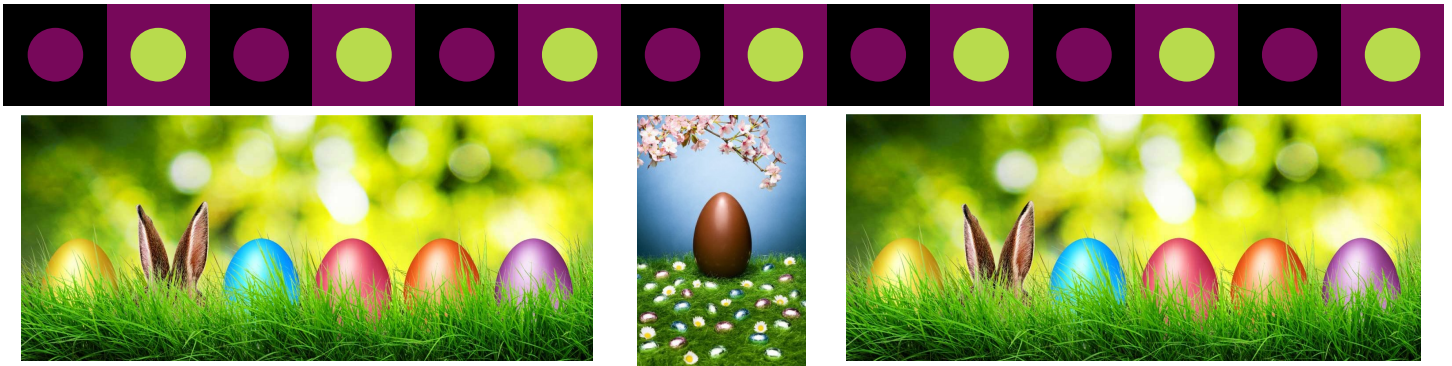


## My Hopeful Easter Wish

I think my favorite Easter memory would be spending time with my nephew who is now in college up in Arkansas. He was fun to be around even though we didn't hang out much. However, new memories will be made in the future, so can I really honestly say that I have had my absolute favorite Easter memory? I think not, because I have no clue as of what the future will bring my way. With my nephew gone for now it's hard to realize that life happens and your nephews will grow up before you know it. I'm still confident that one day in the future all 3 of my nephews will celebrate Easter with me once again. Even if we go to a sports game or a music event, I really don't care, family is important to me. Like everyone my wishes could just be wishful thinking and granting me false hope, or perhaps it's a wish that might happen in the near to far future. No matter what others say, I am holding on to my hopeful wish, because a family divided against itself won't stand. I am looking forward to that one day when I am able to have a family of my own. I hope I can teach them the importance of family.

*By Dakota Smoot*





## Happier Times

To be honest the spring is usually an unhappy time for me. Every year as Easter approaches, I remember that my Grandma died on an Easter weekend. But today I am going to go back to my childhood for some happier memories.

This may seem silly, but when I was little, I was terrified of seeing the Easter bunny at the mall, Easter egg hunts, church, or just anywhere really. I guess at some point I was okay with the bunny because we do have some photos of me with the Easter bunny when I was little. As I recall, we did a lot of desensitizing by watching from a distance and then slowly going closer until I was comfortable enough for a picture with my “nervous smile.”

Another event that everyone loves, and I actually enjoyed, was a good old Easter egg hunt. Though I couldn't walk, my parents devised a plan so I could still have fun. I would direct them to the Easter eggs which I could see, and my parents made me identify them by color in order for them to know which one I was looking at. They said it was part of the fun, but I suspect they had ulterior motives, like practicing my colors.

I also remember waking up in the morning to find a cool new basket of chocolate and toys. Some of my favorite toys were the plush Peeps bunnies and chicks. I don't like eating them, but the plushies are cute. Sometimes there would be sock monkeys to add to my ever-growing collection. And of course, I loved the Hershey chocolate bunnies. But maybe the best Easter gift I ever got were the cardinals which came to visit my house soon after my Grandma died. I think they came to let me know that everything was going to be okay.

*By Serena Wetmore*





## When My Family is Around

When my family is around for egg fights and pictures with the family, I have time with my nieces. They want to color the eggs, and we like to make pictures for their mom and dad. They also always want to have time with grandma and their aunt Leah. I always have fun with my family and with my mom and dad. I like when my mom and I get ready for Easter time because our house is pretty. I like wearing springy clothes for Easter. I like when my nieces and I attack my sister and her boyfriend for the egg fight. Then I always get my nails done for the spring and Easter time.

*By Leah Gorman*



## My Favorite Easter Memory

My favorite Easter memory was going egg hunting at my local community center. When I was a kid, during this time of year, I always went Easter egg hunting. It was my favorite part of Easter Sunday, because you got free candy by the end of the day. Every year in my community, my town hosts a festival where there are egg hunts, music, and decorations. It is a lot of fun. There is no better moment to be with friends and have a plethora of activities to do. I was always kept occupied by the games they had displayed. Let's be honest, when I was little I was kind of scared of the Easter bunny, but I got a picture with the bunny, so it all worked out in the end. Since I grew up in a Christian household, the most important thing about Easter was to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. It's something that my mom always taught me about this part of the story about Christ.

*By Alexander Gonzalez*

## The Easter Bike

I remember back in the day when I lived with Nana, I had probably the best Easter I can remember, partly because that's the only Easter I really had fun. The adults put the eggs in the usual places and the baskets in theirs, but they decided to put mine in a flower pot of all places. I searched for almost an hour, watching all the other little kids eat their candy and enjoy what they had gotten, but I couldn't. After a while I realized that the Easter basket wasn't an Easter basket, but a bike in wrapping paper that I had passed countless times. At the time that bike was the only thing I wanted, because it was the coolest bike I had ever seen, and I just wanted one in general. Yeah, I got the candy and the RC car too, but that bike had all my attention. I rode that bike for almost the whole day once I realized it was mine.

*By Brandon White*



## Easter Memory

Some of my favorite memories of Easter involve getting up and going to Easter church service and then riding over to my grandma's house right after church, where other family members also joined us. We would have a nice meal: not necessarily the same menu every year, but always good food. We always had a basket of nicely colored Easter eggs on the table as part of the meal, which was one of my favorite parts, and it also served as a table decoration. We also always had a bunny cake decorated with lots of candy. It was cute, but not something I cared for, as cakes and sweets have never been my favorite thing. After we finished eating and sat around the table for a while visiting, some of the adults would go outside and hide some Easter eggs for the kids to hunt, while some of the adults stayed inside with the kids to make sure they weren't peeking. Then we ran out with our baskets to try and find as many eggs as we could. Honestly though, I enjoyed eating them more than having to hunt for them LOL, and all of this is why these are some of my favorite Easter memories.

*By Derek Carraway*



## The Ultimate Egg Hunt

The year was 1994. I was the ripe age of 7. My family had made a big move from the Big Apple to the Sunshine State, Florida. It was Easter, and truthfully, I didn't know what to expect, because in NY we didn't have Easter. There were 4 of us: my two little brothers, ages 4 and 3, and my cousin who was in 5th grade. She assured us we were going to get awesome things that day. I was rather skeptical, but awoke looking around for something spectacular. This is when we saw colorful eggs everywhere. My parents explained each of us had a color. We needed to find and crack our eggs. Each egg would have a clue that would lead us to a big surprise. Instantly excited, I jumped into action and read the clues. Finally, after 20 minutes, we had done everything from jumping, to singing, to dancing, and we received our baskets. I can't even remember what we got into, except that I got a cute teacher doll, while my cousin got Beach Barbie. I remember being so happy and excited to find the treasure. It was a creative way to interact with my parents. They showed me how to have fun while learning. It certainly was my most favorite and unforgettable Easter ever.

*By Shevie Barnes*





## 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](http://www.floridayouthcouncil.com). The program is open to application year round. We hope to hear from you soon!



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