



## Welcome to the 2021/22 TOPS Season

### REGISTRATION BEGINS 8/23/21

**What is TOPS?** The Teen Options Program (TOPS) is sponsored by the Darien Youth Commission. It is endorsed by MMS and made possible through the generous involvement of parent volunteers. TOPS is committed to offer affordable, safe, fun, drug and alcohol-free activities for Darien students in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grades (both public and private school students.) There is a charge for each TOPS event. Participants must be registered and pay an entrance fee at each event. Activities are grade-level specific with the exception of four events which are for both 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> (1 event), 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> (1 event) and 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> (2 events) grade TOPS members.

#### How does my child participate?

1. **MUST BE REGISTERED BY A PARENT OR GUARDIAN** (No child will be permitted to stay at any TOPS event if he/she is not a registered member.)
2. Participant must be Darien resident in Grade 6, 7 or 8

#### How do I register?

3. Online @ [www.darienct.gov/yc](http://www.darienct.gov/yc) or
4. Complete registration form and return to Middlesex Middle School or Darien Youth Commission (Town Hall, Room 110)

#### How do I pay?

5. Pay-at-each event - cash or check payable to Town of Darien.

**ALL STUDENTS WHO WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TOPS PROGRAM MUST BE REGISTERED PRIOR TO FIRST EVENT.**

### TOPS RULES

As a reminder, TOPS events are put together to offer fun and safe activities for ALL students. It is our position to be certain that appropriate levels of behavior be respected at all times. Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated.

1. Functions are open to TOPS members only. TOPS members may NOT bring guests.
2. Use of drugs, alcohol and/or tobacco/e-cigs prior to and/or during TOPS events is prohibited.
3. The TOPS program will follow the Darien Public Schools and/or Darien Health Department guidance on masking at any and/or all events. (For events held at off-site locations, the masking guidelines for those locations will be followed if they are stricter than the DPS or DHD guidelines.)
4. No student may leave a function until it is over.
5. No piggyback & shoulder rides, roughhousing, pushing, punching, or tripping.
6. Inappropriate behavior of any kind, such as inappropriate &/or promiscuous dancing and disrespecting other individuals (adult volunteers, paid staff and peers) is unacceptable.



7. Students are responsible for any damages they cause.
8. Refreshments remain in designated areas. No refreshments may be brought to the functions.
9. Students must be picked up promptly at the end of all functions by a parent or guardian.  
**STUDENTS MAY NOT LEAVE ON FOOT OR BY BICYCLE.**
10. **DRESS CODE:** Students may not wear hats to dances in the gymnasium. Clothing with offensive language, messages or substance-related advertising is unacceptable. When a tie is required, it must be worn appropriately. At the discretion of Youth Commission staff, TOPS members may be barred entry due to inappropriate clothing.
11. In order to ensure the safety of all TOPS members, it is forbidden to bring any sort of weapon or dangerous object to any TOPS event.

## DISCIPLINARY ACTION

1. At the discretion of TOPS Coordinators and Youth Commission Staff, depending on the severity of any infraction, offending students may be asked to sit out, be sent home, and/or not be eligible to participate in future events.
2. **USE AND/OR POSSESSION OF DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND/OR TOBACCO/E-CIGS/ETC AND/OR POSSESSION OF A WEAPON OR DANGEROUS OBJECT WILL RESULT IN THE IMMEDIATE REMOVAL FROM TOPS.** Parents will be called; the student will be sent home & be disallowed from attending future TOPS events.

## PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. **TOPS RELIES HEAVILY ON PARENT VOLUNTEERS IN A VARIETY OF CAPACITIES** (*decorating, chaperoning, clean-up, etc.*). **TO SUPPORT THE CONTINUED SUCCESS OF THE TOPS PROGRAM, IT IS THE EXPECTATION THAT PARENTS OF ALL PARTICIPANTS VOLUNTEER AT SOME POINT DURING THE PROGRAM.**
2. **STUDENTS MAY NOT LEAVE A FUNCTION BEFORE IT IS OVER AND WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE ON FOOT OR BICYCLE.**
3. Parent or emergency contact must be reachable during each TOPS event. This information is critical should we need to contact an adult at any time during an event for any reason.

**Parent Volunteers:** There is an expectation that every parent will do his or her part to make these events a success for our children. As events approach you will see requests for volunteers on the MPN including links to sign-up-genius. Please respond to these requests in a timely manner to facilitate a smooth process for our volunteer event chairs. If you would like to be one of our core volunteers please contact the Youth Director, Alicia Sillars. Your cooperation as volunteers is both necessary and greatly appreciated.