

# CONTEST TIME

Depending on where you live, you may be playing in the snow or in the sand. It doesn't matter for this contest. Get out. Get active. Start sculpting. We want to see your best winter sculpture, whether it be done in snow, sand or any other medium. Get creative and show us what you can do! Your next Starbucks could be on us! The winner will be announced in the Spring 2018 newsletter.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Anikah, 17! You are our contest winner from the Fall 2017 newsletter. Enjoy your next Starbucks on us!



WINTER 2017

# CLAIM YOUR YOUTH

APRIL FOOLS' PRANKS

CLAIM YOUR YOUTH



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What's Inside

April 1st: one of the most overlooked holidays. Of course, the federal government wouldn't make such an occasion official due to the debauchery, but their lack of amusement and personality (as it appears) is our gain. It gives us more opportunity to mess with friends and family because, as already stated, April Fools' Day goes overlooked leaving the oblivious vulnerable for the sake of humor.

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Keep in mind, there are limits to what you can plan. You don't want to offend or hurt anyone, you don't want to accidentally cause an allergic reaction, and lastly, you don't want to spend the night in jail. Right? I sure hope so. Luckily for all you pranksters, there are harmless ways to go about your tomfoolery – just know your targets and your audience.

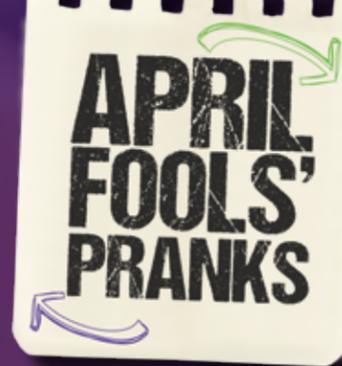
There are great traditional pranks like gluing a coin to the sidewalk and watching people attempt to grab it, rearranging a family member's clothing drawers, putting plastic wrap precisely over the opening of a shampoo bottle, or playing with words like writing Brownies on a box and when someone excitedly opens the lid they're left with brown construction paper cutouts of the letter E and disappointment. However, it's good to mix it up a little and focus on the trends.

Let's start with some creative trickery combined with playfully toying with the hopes of your fellow classmates. The phenomenon that was, or still is, Harry Potter provided dreams beyond belief – literally. For all the aspiring witches and wizards you know, a fake acceptance letter to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry could offer some chuckles. However, don't make it too realistic or your friend may purchase a ticket to the United Kingdom. This can be done

with any real university, but make sure you're not crushing someone's confidence and dreams in the process.

Another way to fool with your family and friends is by taking control of what many consider a prized, sacred possession: their cell phone. We all know these little devices can do everything so you might as well take advantage of their capabilities. For example, you can download an app that displays cracks on the screen, making the owner believe it's broken. Other changes you can make are customizing every app icon with the same picture or a funny recording serving as their ringtone, creating a new password or pattern to unlock their phone, or, and this one can get fun, swapping shortcuts in their iOS dictionary. Instead of it simply texting, "Hey," it could immediately change to "I'm ugly." You have the power to start a slew of awkward conversations. However, as Uncle Ben told Peter Parker, "With great power comes great responsibility."

We can't do all your dirty work for you, but remember, keep it light, keep it harmless, and most importantly, keep it funny this April Fools' Day.



## BUDGET FRIENDLY SHOPPING

Did you spend all of your money buying holiday gifts for your family, your friends and your significant other? Now, it's January. You want to go shopping and you have little to no money left for you. There are ways to still splurge a bit and not use all you have left.

### STEP 1: CLEARANCE SALES

Two of the most beautiful words ever spoken are clearance sale. It's when stores need to make room for next season's goods, so they have to get rid of what they still have. At this time of year, they are called after holiday sales, but it's the same thing. The savings can be anywhere from 25-80% off at this time of year. Yes, it is their winter stuff, but guess what...it's still winter!

### STEP 2: OUTLET MALLS

Are you one of the lucky ones? If you have an outlet mall in your area, you get the benefit of items that have already been cleared out at the main store. Now, they have been marked down even further to make it into the outlet mall.

### STEP 3: LOOK AT THEIR APPS AND WEB SITE FOR COUPONS

Many retailers post additional coupon savings on their Apps. If they want to give you a discount, you might as well take advantage.

### STEP 4: NO SHAME IN CONSIGNMENT AND THRIFT SHOPS

It is not uncommon to walk into a consignment or thrift shop and find things with the tags still on them. Why not get a steal on something someone bought and never used? It's your win!

### STEP 5: SHOP OFF-SEASON

Did you know you can get travel deals if you go off-season? The same goes for clothes. It costs stores money to keep items on their shelf because that space could be used for a higher priced item still in season. You're helping them out by snatching up the bargain.

**Moral of the story**, you can dress really well and not break the bank. What's better than looking like a million bucks? Knowing you did it for a mere fraction of what you could have.

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## Winter Earnings

As temperatures trickle and attitudes shift, you're still stuck juggling your studies, family and friends, and finances. Winter brings three things (amongst other non-relatable things): cold weather, a short school break, and expenses.

For example, snow sports are costly. A lift ticket in New Mexico ranges from \$45 to over \$100. There are free options on the slopes or clandestine city spots like snowshoeing on trails, sledding or tubing down hills, or being one of those showoffs who forego the lifts and hike up the mountain before speeding down. Yet, many winter activities involve being inside, and if you want a break from family board games by the fireplace, you'll have to spend money which means you need work. Finding a weekend job at the ski resort or a sporting goods store for the season is a great option. You could possibly be offered discounts that directly relate to the things you enjoy which is a win-win.

Winter also brings retail opportunities like part-time seasonal jobs at warehouses and department stores gearing up for the holidays – and that aforementioned discount also comes into effect for those presents you're going to have to buy. The minimum wage in New Mexico is \$9.25/hr so you're making good money – ask your parents what wages were when they were young; it will make you feel really good really fast.

Also, you could stay busy making pumpkin spice whatevers as a barista after school, so don't rule out the food industry – and, remember, families gather during the holidays, which mean bigger tables of people in giving moods. Essentially, it's good practice to be nice – so stay off the naughty list.

Winter is tough: family takes up a lot of your time and you need to stay on top of your studies because the break always seems too short. If you manage your time and budget, you will be allowed to use your earnings to enjoy the season!