

Lea Web's Thanksgiving Celebration

Thanksgiving is all about gathering together as one big family to celebrate the holiday where everyone goes around explaining what they are thankful for. Thanksgiving is not just about eating with family and friends, it's about giving thanks and sharing your gratitude with all of them. Thanksgiving would not be what it is today if the Plymouth Colonists didn't see the Native American Wampanoag people as human beings and sat down and ate with them. It also wouldn't have been a holiday if George Washington didn't issue a proclamation, creating the very first Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving has lots of meanings, and many people celebrate it the same way.

First, Thanksgiving now is all about coming together as a family, but also having a nice roasted turkey waiting for people to dig in, and some football. Thanksgiving is all about giving, so why not help out the community? For example, I am in a group called Reality Check. Reality Check is a youth led group who are advocating against big tobacco companies who advertise in ways that get people addicted. We help out the community by tabling at events to educate people, we also do Butt Pick-Ups, which is where we choose a specific area and pick up any cigarette butts we see. This helps the environment in many ways, as animals can easily swallow a cigarette butt. On November 20th, we will be doing a Butt Pick-Up at the Oakdale Mall. Reality Check is a way of helping out our community.

Second, another meaning of Thanksgiving is spending time with family. Family is important and a great value in your life. You feel comfortable and have great laughter with your family. For example, pewresearch.org states, "A large majority of U.S. adults (73%) say family time is one of *the most* important aspects of their life – and none of the other priorities we asked about comes close." This example demonstrates that family is one of the most important thing

that someone can have. It strengthens the bond within family, and many families celebrate it in a different way. It also gives you the opportunity to say what you're thankful for.

To conclude, Thanksgiving can be different for everyone, but it's also when everyone comes together and celebrates, stating what they're all thankful for. It strengthens so many things and can be a great way to keep in touch with family that you don't talk to often, and can be a great way to give out to a community.