

Section IV

Education and Recreation

Charter Oak Pass

Description:

The Charter Oak Pass provides Connecticut residents age 65 or older free access to Connecticut State Parks and Forests. The Charter Oak Pass may be used at all day use areas in Connecticut State Parks and Forest Recreation Areas. These areas include Gillette Castle, Dinosaur State Park, Fort Trumbull State Park, Quinebaug Valley Hatchery fishing ponds as well as boat launching areas. It is not valid for camping.

Only one pass per vehicle is generally required for parking; the pass holder does not have to be the driver. To enter Gillette Castle, Dinosaur State Park, Quinebaug Valley Hatchery and Fort Trumbull, however, each person must present a pass to gain entrance.

The Charter Oak Pass is a life-use pass for which no fee is charged.

Eligibility Requirements, Service Areas and Program Year:

Eligibility Requirements:

- Must be age 65 or older.
- Must be a Connecticut resident.
- Must provide proof of age and residency. A legible photocopy of a person's current driver's license or legal proof of age and residency should be submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection. Do not send originals.

Service Areas:

Statewide

Program Year:

N/A

Contact Information:

To receive additional information about the program or to apply by mail:

Department of Environmental Protection
Charter Oak Pass, State Parks Division
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127
Telephone: 860-424-3200
Fax: 860-424-4070
Website: www.ct.gov/dep

To apply in person, individuals may visit the following locations:

DEP State Parks Division
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106
Telephone: 860-424-3200
Monday – Friday; 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

DEP Eastern District Headquarters
209 Hebron Road
Marlborough, CT 06447
Telephone: 860-295-9523
Monday – Friday; 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

DEP Western District Headquarters
230 Plymouth Road
Harwinton, CT 06791
Telephone: 860-485-0226
Monday – Friday; 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

DEP Office of Boating
333 Ferry Road
Old Lyme, CT 06371
Telephone: 860-564-7542
Monday – Friday; 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Dinosaur State Park
400 West Street
Rocky Hill, CT 06067
Telephone: 860-529-5816
Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park
57 Fort Street
Groton, CT 06340
Daily; 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
(Memorial Day through Columbus Day)
Telephone: 860-449-6877

Fort Trumbull State Park
90 Walbach Street
New London, CT 06320
Telephone: 860-444-7591
Monday – Friday; 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
(Memorial Day through Columbus Day)
Harkness Memorial State Park

275 Great Neck Road
Waterford, CT 06385
Telephone: 860-443-5725
Monday – Friday; 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Sherwood Island State Park
Green Farms, CT 06436
P.O. Box 188
Telephone: 203-226-6983
Monday – Friday; 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Sleeping Giant State Park
200 Mount Carmel Avenue
Hamden, CT 06517
Telephone: 203-789-7498
Monday – Friday; 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Kellogg Environmental Center
Office of Communications and
Education
500 Hawthorne Avenue
Derby, CT 06418
Telephone: 203-734-2513
Tuesday – Saturday; 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Quinebaug Valley Hatchery
Cady Lane
Danielson, CT 06239
Telephone: 860-564-7542
Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Related Information:

[Golden Age Passport, refer to page IV – 12](#)

[Hunting and Fishing Licenses, refer to page IV – 14](#)

Connecticut State Library

Description:

The State Library is the principal library for all branches of state government. It has comprehensive collections in law and legislation; public administration and policy; state, federal and local government; CT history and genealogy, including town and church records, family bible records, cemetery inscriptions, etc.; Connecticut newspapers; and state archives.

The Raymond E. Baldwin Museum of Connecticut History is home to historical exhibits on Connecticut's government, military and industrial history, including the Royal Charter of 1662, a Colt firearms collection and portraits of Connecticut's governors. Permanent and changing exhibits trace the growth of the State and its role in the development of the nation from the Colonial era to the present.

The Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped provides free mail loan of recorded and Braille books and magazines, and the necessary playback equipment to eligible residents who are unable to read conventional print because of a visual or physical disability.

iCONN – Connecticut's re-search engine, is free to all Connecticut residents, students and faculty with a Connecticut library card. It provides online access to over 400 Connecticut library catalogues and over 25 million full-text popular and scholarly articles, as well as health information, business information on 450,000 companies, newspapers, a photo archive and genealogical information. iCONN can be accessed by going to www.iconn.org.

The Connecticut service allows Connecticut library patrons to borrow materials at any public library throughout the state with their hometown library card. This service provides statewide delivery of materials between libraries. It allows requested materials from any library in the state to be sent to a local library. Borrowed items may be returned to any public library.

The Library and Museum are closed on Sundays, State holidays, and Saturdays when a holiday observance is on Friday or Monday.

Eligibility Requirements:

Eligibility Requirements:

- N/A

Service Areas:

Statewide

Program Year:
N/A

Contact Information:

Connecticut State Library
231 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106
Telephone: 860-757-6500
Fax: 860-757-6503
Monday - Friday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
Website: www.cslib.org

Library for the Blind and Physically
Handicapped
198 West Street

Rocky Hill 06067
Telephone: 800-842-4516
Fax: 860-566-6669
Website: www.cslib.org

Museum of Connecticut History
231 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106
Telephone: 860-757-6535
Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Saturday – 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Website: www.cslib.org/museum.htm

Related Information:

N/A

Department of Higher Education

Description:

The Department of Higher Education conducts policy-making for Connecticut's colleges and universities. It reviews annual operating and capital budget requests for the public higher education system, establishes state policies on tuition and fees, licenses and accredits academic programs offered by public and private colleges and universities and develops statewide plans and policies under the direction of the Board of Governors for Higher Education.

The Department operates the Education and Employment Information Center, a statewide information and referral service that provides free information about colleges, adult education programs and career counseling and training.

Public colleges and universities waive tuition for persons age 62 and older when space is available. Older adults are encouraged to take advantage of the rich resources available through Connecticut's higher education system.

Eligibility Requirements, Service Areas and Program Year:

Eligibility Requirements:

- Must be age 62 or older for a tuition waiver.

Service Areas:

Statewide

Program Year:

N/A

Contact Information:

- For information on tuition waivers and course schedules contact the colleges and universities listed in [Appendix G](#) or call:
-
- Education and Employment Information Center (EEIC):
- Telephone: 800-842-0229
- Weekdays 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Related Information:

[Elderhostel, refer to page IV – 8](#)

[Learning Programs for Retired Persons, refer to page IV – 15](#)

Elderhostel

Description:

Elderhostel is a network of colleges, universities, and independent schools, which offer low-cost, one-week, academic programs for persons age 55 and older. The program offers over 10,000 programs annually to over a quarter of a million people. Programs are offered worldwide. No formal education is required for participation in the program.

The Aging Services Division of the Department of Social Services serves as a liaison between New England Elderhostel and low-income Connecticut residents. A limited number of hostelships are available from the Aging Services Division for programs offered in New England. Hostelships are scholarships for people who cannot afford the cost of attendance in a program. They cover the full cost of tuition in New England, which is a maximum of \$600. Tuition covers all costs for housing, meals, courses and extra curricular activities. Recipients must pay a \$100 registration fee and are responsible for transportation to and from the campus. Hostelships are generally given to low-income individuals, but persons with slightly higher income may qualify if they have special circumstances. Recipients may only apply for one hostelship per year.

Catalogs of available Elderhostel courses can be obtained from the Elderhostel Catalogue Request Department and from local libraries. Applications are available from the Aging Services Division of the Department of Social Services.

Eligibility Requirements, Service Areas and Program Year:

Eligibility Requirements:

- Must be age 55 or older.
- Must be a Connecticut resident.
- Adjusted gross income cannot exceed \$13,500 for single individuals and \$17,000 for couples.

Service Areas:

Statewide

Program Year:

N/A

Contact Information:

To obtain Elder Hostelship applications:

Jennifer Gorman
Department of Social Services
Aging Services Division
25 Sigourney Street
Hartford, CT 06106
Telephone: 1-800-443-9946 or 860-424-5643

To obtain Elderhostel catalogs:

Elderhostel, Inc.
11 Avenue de Lafayette
Boston, MA 02111-1746
Telephone: 877-426-2166
Website: www.elderhostel.org
Or visit your local library

To obtain more information on Elderhostel Programs:

Elderhostel, Inc.
11 Avenue de Lafayette
Telephone: 877-426-8056
TDD: 877-426-2167
Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Related Information:

[Department of Higher Education, refer to page IV – 6](#)
[Learning Programs for Retired Persons, refer to page IV – 15.](#)

Golden Age Passport

Description:

The Golden Age Passport is a lifetime entrance pass that allows persons, age 62 and older, to visit national parks, monuments, historic sites, recreation areas and national wildlife refuges access without paying the customary entrance fee. It also provides a 50 percent discount on federal use fees charged for facilities and services such as camping, swimming, parking, boat launching and tours. In some cases where use fees are charged, only the pass holder may be given the 50 percent discount.

The Golden Age Passport admits the pass holder and any accompanying passengers in a private vehicle when a park has a per-vehicle entrance fee. Where a per-person entrance fee is charged, the Golden Age Passport admits the pass holder, spouse, and children. The passport is nontransferable and does NOT cover or reduce special recreation permit fees or fees charged by concessioners. It is only available to citizens or permanent residents of the United States who are at least 62 years of age. This lifetime pass is available for a one-time fee of \$10 and may be obtained at the entrance of most federally operated recreation areas, which charge an entrance fee. Persons must show proof of age.

Eligibility Requirements, Service Areas and Program Year:

Eligibility Requirements:

- Must be age 62 or older.
- Must be U.S. Citizen or permanent resident of the United States.
- Must obtain passports in person and show proof of age at time of application. A state driver's license, birth certificate or similar document is acceptable.

Service Areas:

Nationwide

Program Year:

N/A

Contact Information:

National Park Service
Office of Public Inquiries
Telephone: 202-208-4747
Website: www.nps.gov

Related Information:

[Charter Oak Pass, refer to page IV – 1](#)

Golden Access Passport

Description:

The Golden Access Passport is a lifetime entrance pass to national parks, monuments, historic sites, recreation areas and national wildlife refuges that charge an entrance fee. The Golden Access Passport admits the pass holder and any accompanying passengers in a private vehicle when a park has a per vehicle entrance fee. Where a per-person entrance fee is charged, the Golden Access Passport admits the pass holder, spouse, and children.

The Golden Access Passport also provides a 50 percent discount on federal use fees charged for facilities and services such as camping, swimming, parking, boat launching and tours. In some cases where use fees are charged, only the pass holder will be given the 50 percent price reduction. The Passport is nontransferable and does NOT cover or reduce special recreation permit fees or fees charged by concessionaires.

The Golden Access Passport is available to citizens or permanent residents of the United States who are medically determined to be blind or have a permanent disability. The passport must be obtained in person at a federal area where an entrance fee is charged by showing proof of medically determined permanent disability, or eligibility for receiving benefits under federal law.

Eligibility Requirements, Service Areas and Program Year:

Eligibility Requirements:

- Must be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States.
- Must be medically blind or have a permanent disability.

Service Areas:

Nationwide

Program Year:

N/A

Contact Information:

National Park Service
Office of Public Inquiries
Telephone: (202) 208-4747
Website: www.nps.gov

Related Information:

N/A

Hunting and Fishing Licenses

Description:

Connecticut General Statutes 26-28(9) provides that persons 65 years of age or older are entitled to obtain a lifetime fishing license free of charge by applying to their local Town Clerk or any participating licensed agent in Connecticut. Older adults who meet the guidelines can also obtain a free hunting license by applying to the Town Clerk.

Eligibility Requirements, Service Areas and Program Year:

Eligibility Requirements:

- Must be age 65 or older.

Service Areas:

Statewide

Program Year:

N/A

Contact Information:

For further information contact the local Town Clerk's Office or a participating licensed agent.

The Department of Environmental Protection is working currently on posting licensed agents on its website. Go to www.ct.gov/dep for the list.

Related Information:

[Charter Oak Pass, refer to page IV – 1](#)

[Golden Age Passport, refer to page IV – 12](#)

Learning Programs for Retired Persons

Description:

There are programs offered throughout Connecticut that give retired persons the opportunity to participate in learning and educational activities. Many of these programs are housed at higher education institutions such as universities, State Colleges and Community Technical Colleges. These programs offer diverse courses, seminars and educational trips. The cost to participate in these programs varies but is generally considered affordable. Some programs are affiliated with the Elderhostel Institute Network, they are called Lifelong Learning Institutes. Others are independently operated. Qualified persons may receive help with the tuition costs associated with attending programs that are affiliated with Elderhostel.

Eligibility Requirements, Service Areas and Program Year:

Eligibility Requirements:

- Typically, must be retired or semi-retired.

Service Areas:

Statewide

Program Year:

N/A

Contact Information:

For programs that are not affiliated with the Elderhostel Institute Network contact the local higher education institution which sponsors the program for which you are interested. The Center for Learning in Retirement is such an institution, for additional information call:

Center for Learning in Retirement (CLIR)
University of Connecticut
Center for Continuing Studies
1 Bishop Circle, Unit 4056
Storrs, CT 06269
Telephone: 860-486-6354
Fax: 860-486-5221
Website: www.continuingstudies.uconn.edu

For additional information regarding specific Lifelong Learning Institutes, which are associated with the Elderhostel Institute Network contact the specific program listed below:

Adventures in Lifelong Learning (ALL)
Three Rivers Community College
Mohegan Sun Campus
Mahan Drive
Norwich, CT 06360
Telephone: 860-383-5260
Fax: 860-892-5753
Email: ehfrank@snet.net

Institute for Learning in Retirement
Middlebrook Farms at Trumbull/Sacred
Heart University
2750 Reservoir Avenue
Trumbull, CT 06611
Telephone: 203-268-2400
Fax: 203-268-7034
Email: cshea@benchquality.com

Institute for Learning in Retirement
Albertus Magnus College
801 Grassy Hill Road
Orange, CT 06477
Telephone: 800-220-0458
Email: ilralbertus@yahoo.com
Website: www.ilralbertus.org

Institute for learning in Retirement
Sacred Heart University
Jewish Center for Community Services
4200 Park Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604
Telephone: 203-372-6567
Fax: 203-374-0770
Email: lauriegross@jccs.org

Learning in Retirement
Sacred Heart University at Stamford
12 Omega Drive
Stamford, CT 06907
Telephone: 203-358-8081
Fax: 203-323-4974
Email: ralangen@aol.com

Learning in Retirement at QVCC
Quinebaug Valley Community College
742 Upper Maple Street
Danielson, CT 06239
Telephone: 860-774-1133
Email: cpl@qvcc.commnet.edu
Website: www.qvcc.commnet.edu

Lifelong Learners
Sacred Heart University
Fairfield Senior Center
100 Mona Terrace
Fairfield, CT 06430
Telephone: 203-256-3166
Fax: 203-254-7530
Email: cgrace@town.fairfield.ct.us

Lifetime Learners Institute
Norwalk Community College
188 Richards Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06854
Telephone: 203-857-3330
Email: info@lifetimelearners.org
Website: www.lifetimelearners.org

Middlesex Institute for Lifelong
Education
Middlesex Community College
100 Training Hill Road
Middletown, CT 06457
Telephone: 860-343-5863
Email: rmcn0408@aol.com

Taconic Learning Center
P.O. Box 1752
Lakeville, CT 06039
Telephone: 860-435-2922
Email: snigdom@aol.com
Website: www.taconiclearningcenter.org

University of the Third Age
Asnuntuck Community College
170 Elm Street
Enfield, CT 06082
Telephone: 860-253-3115
Fax: 860-253-3067
Website: jkane@acc.commnet.edu

The Adult Learning Program (ALP)
University of Connecticut
85 Lawler Road
West Hartford, CT 06117
Telephone: 860-570-9079
Email: alp@uconn.edu
Website: www.uconnalp.org

Related Information:

[Elderhostel, refer to page IV – 8](#)