Education And Leisure
CHARTER OAK PASS

Program Description:

The Charter Oak Pass provides senior citizens access to the Connecticut State parks and recreation system.

Generally, only one pass per vehicle is required for parking and the pass holder does not have to be the driver. However, to enter Gillette Castle, Dinosaur State Park & Quinebaug Valley Hatchery each individual senior citizen must present a pass to gain entrance.

The Charter Oak Pass may be used at all day time facilities in Connecticut State Parks, Forest Recreation, and State Boat Launch areas. It is not valid for camping or at the Shakespeare Theatre.

Eligibility Requirements:

There is no fee for the Charter Oak Pass. To qualify, the person must be 65 years of age or older and a Connecticut resident.

For More Information Contact:

Department of Environmental Protection
Charter Oak Pass, State Parks Division
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127
Phone: (860) 424-3200
Fax: (860) 424-4070
Internet Address: www.dep.state.ct.us
Program Description:

The Department of Higher Education oversees Connecticut’s higher education system. It prepares 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 carries out statewide planning and policymaking under the direction of the Board of Governors for Higher Education.

Senior citizens are encouraged to take advantage of the rich resources offered by Connecticut higher education. Public colleges and universities waive tuition for seniors aged 62 and older, provided space is available.

The Education and Employment Information Center is a statewide information and referral service operated by the Department of Higher Education. It provides free information on colleges, adult education programs, career counseling, and training.

Eligibility Requirements:

To qualify for a tuition waiver, the person must be 62 years old or older.

For More Information Contact:

For information on tuition waivers and course schedules, contact the colleges in this section, or call the toll-free Hotline of the Education and Employment Information Center (EEIC): 1(800)842-0229, in Hartford, (860) 566-8118.

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

University of Connecticut, Main Campus
Storrs, CT 06269
Phone: (860) 486-2000

Avery Point Campus
Groton, CT 06340
Phone: (860) 405-9000

Hartford Campus
1800 Asylum Avenue
West Hartford 06117
Phone: (860) 570-9214

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

Stamford Campus
Scofieldtown Road
Stamford 06903
Phone: (203) 322-3466

Torrington Campus
855 University Drive
Torrington 06790
Phone: (860) 482-7635

Waterbury Campus
32 Hillside Avenue
Waterbury 06710
Phone: (203) 596-4080

CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY
Central Connecticut  
1615 Stanley Street  
New Britain  06050  
Phone: (860) 832-3200

Southern Connecticut  
501 Crescent Street  
New Haven  06515  
Phone: (203) 392-5200

Eastern Connecticut  
83 Windham Street  
Willimantic  06226  
Phone: (860) 465-5000

Western Connecticut  
181 White Street  
Danbury  06810  
Phone (203) 837-8200

COMMUNITY TECHNICAL COLLEGES

Asnuntuck  
170 Elm Street  
Enfield  06082  
Phone: (860) 253-3000

Capital Community  
Woodland Campus  
61 Woodland Street  
Hartford  06105  
Phone: (860) 520-7800

Three Rivers, Thanes Valley Campus  
574 New London Turnpike  
Norwich 06360  
Phone: (860) 885-2338

Capital Community  
Flatbush Campus  
401 Flatbush Avenue  
Hartford 06106  
Phone: (860)987-4815

Middlesex  
100 Training Hill Road  
Middletown 06457  
Phone: (860) 343-5800

North Haven Campus  
88 Bassett Road  
New Haven 06473  
Phone: (203) 234-3300

Norwalk  
188 Richards Avenue  
Norwalk 06854  
Phone: (203) 857-7000

Malog Valley  
574 New London Turnpike  
Norwich 06360  
Phone: (860) 885-2338

Gateway Long Wharf Campus  
60 Sargent Drive  
New Haven 06511  
Phone: (203) 789-7071

Northwestern Connecticut Park Place  
Winsted, CT 06098  
Phone: (860) 738-6300

Housatonic  
510 Barnum Ave.  
Bridgeport  06604  
Phone: (203) 579-6400

Quinnebaug Valley  
742 Upper Maple Street  
Danielson 06239  
Phone: (860) 774-1130

Manchester  
60 Bidwell Street  
Manchester 06040  
Phone: (860) 647-6000

Tunxis  
21 Scott Swamp Road  
Farmington 06032  
Phone: (860) 677-7701
CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY

Program Description:

Seniors with temporary or permanent visual or physical disabilities may borrow a variety of recordings, known as talking books (cassettes or record disks), playback equipment, and books and periodicals in Braille. They are loaned, free of charge, from the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

The Raymond E. Baldwin Museum of Connecticut History and Heritage is open to the public, free of charge, Monday through Friday. It is home to the Royal Charter of 1662, a world-famous Colt firearms collection, portraits of Connecticut's governors, and other fascinating historic exhibits.

Those pursuing research projects at the Connecticut State Library have access to an extensive archives collection, history and genealogy material (including town and church records), law and legislative reference materials, a sizable government documents depository, large newspaper holdings, and many other informational sources (such as family bible records, cemetery inscriptions, etc.).

When materials not locally available are tracked down, the Connecticard service can deliver the requested materials to local libraries. The service also allows patrons statewide to borrow and return materials to any of the many participating public libraries.

☐ Eligibility Requirements:

To qualify for the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, call 1-800-842-4516 for details.

☎️ For More Information Contact:

State Library  Raymond E. Baldwin Museum
231 Capitol Avenue  231 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106  Hartford, CT 06106
Phone: (860) 566-2910  Phone: (860) 566-3056
Fax: (860) 566-8940  Mon. - Fri. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Mon. - Fri. 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Library and Museum are both closed on State holidays.
ELDERHOSTEL

Program Description:

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

The Division of Elderly Services serves as a liaison between New England Elderhostel and low income individuals in Connecticut. A limited number of hostelships are scholarships for people who cannot afford the attendance cost and can be requested from the Elderly Services Division. The hostelship covers the full amount of tuition in New England (maximum $340). Each recipient is responsible for a $75 registration fee. Tuition covers all costs for housing, meals, courses and extra curricular activities. Hostelship recipients are responsible for their own transportation to and from the campus. Hostelships are valid for programs offered in New England and recipients may apply for only one program per year.

A catalog of available Elderhostel courses can be obtained by contacting the Wakefield, MA address listed below. Catalogs are also available at local libraries.

Eligibility Requirements:

Hostelships are granted on the basis of financial need. To qualify, a person must be 55 years of age or older, a Connecticut resident and income eligible (e.g. $13,500, annual adjusted gross income for individuals, $17,000 for couples). An application can be obtained by contacting the Department of Social Services, Elderly Services Division. Hostelship applicants with slightly higher incomes may qualify if there are special circumstances. Because funds are limited, recipients may receive only one hostelship a year.

For More Information:

Elderhostel applications can be obtained by contacting:
Dee Ana White  
DSS, Elderly Services Division, 10th Floor  
25 Sigourney Street  
Hartford, CT 06106  
Phone: 1-800-443-9946  
or (860) 424-5293

Elderhostel Catalogs can be obtained by contacting:
Elderhostel  
Catalog Request Department  
P.O. Box 260  
Wakefield, MA 01880-0860  
Catalog Request Line: 1-800-895-0727  
Website Address: http://www.elderhostel.org
GOLDEN AGE PASSPORT

Program Description:

The Golden Age Passport allows persons, aged 62 years of age or older, to visit parks, monuments and recreation areas administered by the federal government without paying the customary entrance fee. This lifetime pass is available for a onetime fee of $10 and may be obtained at the entrance of most Federally operated recreation areas which charge an entrance fee. Golden Age Passports must be obtained in person and proof of age is required at the time of application. A state driver’s license showing a person’s birth date or a birth certificate will verify an older person’s age.

If a person does not have any proof of age, a signed affidavit showing his/her date of birth is acceptable.

☑️ Eligibility Requirements:

To qualify, the person must be 62 years of age or older and a U.S. Citizen or permanent resident alien of the United States.

🚨 For More Information Contact:

The National Park Service, Office of Public Inquiries
Phone: (202) 208-4747
Website: www.nps.gov
HUMANITIES PROGRAMS FOR OLDER ADULTS (HPOA)

Program Description:

Through the office of the Humanities Program Coordinator at the Elderly Services Division, opportunities for continued growth and learning are provided throughout the state to older adults, many of whom have had limited educational experiences because of lifetime commitments to work and family.

Humanities Programs for Older Adults (HPOA) has sponsored or co-sponsored cultural programs, including book and film discussion series on a variety of subjects ranging from local history to literature. Consultation on program ideas, funding, resources and implementation, as well as workshops on humanities program development are offered to service and care providers, including senior center staff, activities directors, volunteer programmers, nursing home staff, or any others working with older persons and their families.

The HPOA Coordinator also conducts training for service and care providers on using humanistic perspectives in improving communication skills and clinical intervention with elderly clients. A free booklet, listing program ideas and resources including sections on intergenerational educational programs and oral history interviewing is available upon request. Ask for HUMANITIES FOR OLDER ADULTS: A GUIDE TO RESOURCES AND PROGRAM PLANNING.

☑️ Eligibility Requirement:

None.

☞ For More Information:

David Shuldiner, Humanist in Residence
Department of Social Services
Elderly Services Division
25 Sigourney Street
Hartford, CT 06106
Phone: (860) 424-5240
HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES

Program Description:

Connecticut General Statutes 26-28(9) provide that people 65 years of age or older can obtain a lifetime fishing license free of charge by applying to their Town Clerk. In addition, a person 65 years of age or older who meets the guidelines can also obtain a free hunting license by applying to his or her Town Clerk.

Eligibility Requirements:

To qualify, a person must be 65 years of age or older.

For More Information:

Call or visit your Town Clerk’s office.