

Activity Ideas

A

Animal Barn - [UCONN Animal Barns](#) - Everyone is welcome to explore the UCONN Animal barns located in Storrs, CT. The tours are self-guided and they are free. For more information call (860) 486-2413.

Appalachian Mountain Club - The Appalachian Mountain Club promotes protection, enjoyment and understanding of the mountains, forests, waters and trails of the Appalachian region. Get outdoors! AMC lists activities by [state](#), [family](#) programs, [teen & young adult](#) programs, [school](#) programs, [urban youth](#) programs and more. For general information call (800) 372-1758.

Aquarium - [Mystic Aquarium](#), located in Mystic, CT. At Mystic Aquarium, mentors and mentees will literally a closeness to ocean life. Whether you're touching a sting ray, feeling the splash of a beluga whale, going beak-to-nose with a penguin or exploring the deep sea through the aquarium's exhibits close encounters with the incredible sea happen daily. Nutmeg Big Brothers Bigs Sisters Bigs and Littles are **free** with your membership card. For more information call (860) 572-5955.

Assembling a model airplane, car or train

B

Bake cookies or a cake

Basketball Hall of Fame

Batting Cages - Berlin Batting Cages Inc., located in Berlin, CT has four fun activities in one location. They have two [miniature golf courses](#), [bumper boats](#), state-of-the-art [go-karts](#) and of course, [batting cages](#). For more information call (860) 828-7518.

Bumper Boats - [Berlin Batting Cages](#) - Berlin Batting Cages Inc., located in Berlin, CT has four fun activities in one location. They have two [miniature golf courses](#), [bumper boats](#), state-of-the-art [go-karts](#) and of course, [batting cages](#). For more information call (860) 828-7518.

The Bushnell - [Plan a visit](#) at The Bushnell theatre in Hartford, Connecticut. The Bushnell offers **free** [Guided Tours](#), taking you through the world-class performing arts center. Call (860) 987-6033 to schedule a tour.

Butterfly Conservatories

[The Butterfly Conservatory](#) in the [American Museum of Natural History](#) - located in New York, NY, has tropical butterflies year-round. For more information call (212) 769-5100.

[Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory & Gardens](#) - located in South Deerfield, MA, has a glass conservatory. During cold winter days, a blazing fire is ongoing in the imposing fieldstone fireplace. For more information call (413) 665-2805.

C

[Connecticut Forest & Park Association](#) - The Connecticut Forest & Park Association has been connecting people to the land and protecting our forest since 1895. Visit their website to find out where to [hike](#), to learn about [environmental education](#) and get more information on [WalkCT](#). For more information call (860) 346-2372.

[Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association](#)

D

Designing t-shirts with iron-on-photos, puffy paint or embellishments from your local arts & crafts store.

[The Dinosaur Place at Nature's Art](#) - Enjoy a day filled with educational fun and adventure at The Dinosaur Place located in Oakdale, CT. The Dinosaur Place has tons of [indoor activities](#) including Jackpot Mine, Thunder Creek and The Bone Zone. Pick your own [geode](#), check out the [Mineral & Fossil Gallery](#), the [Bead Room](#), the [Fluorescent Display](#) and much more. For more information call (860) 443-4367.

[Dinosaur State Park](#) - Dinosaur State Park in Rocky Hill, Connecticut is open year-round and displays one of the largest 200 million-year-old dinosaur track sites and fossils in North America. [Plan a visit](#) to The Park, checking out their many [programs and activities](#). Dinosaur State Park also offer [Educational Programs](#) for grades 1 - 12 that meet Connecticut Science standards. The Park's informational phone number is (860) 529-8423. You may speak with park staff by calling (860) 529-5816 Tuesday - Sunday from 9 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

Discovery.com

E

Educational - There are fun web-based games that help children learn math, science and reading at [TestPrepFun](#)

F

Fire House/Department - Stop by your local firehouse to see if you can get a peek at the engines.

The Fire Museum - The Fire Museum, located in Manchester, CT, is housed in a retired 1901 fire station with a unique atmosphere that saw the transition from hand to horse drawn, then motorized equipment. In addition to a working Gamewell Fire Alarm System, their collection includes hundreds of fine examples of early American craftsmanship relating to firefighting such as glassware, lighting, leather making, photography, textiles and paintings. For more information call (860) 649-9436.

For girls - give each other make-overs or manicures. You may also make an appointment at your local beauty salon or at your local cosmetology school, if you're looking for a deal.

Fun educational web-based games may be found at [TestPrepFun](#).

G

Games - Getting to Know You games such as "[Two Truths & One Untruth](#)" and "[All About Me](#)."

Geocaching - Geocaching is a treasure hunting game where you use GPS to hide and seek containers with other participants in the activity. Check out [geocaching in Connecticut](#) and the [Connecticut Caching Community](#).

Go-karts - [Berlin Batting Cages](#) - Berlin Batting Cages Inc., located in Berlin, CT has four fun activities in one location. They have two [miniature golf courses](#), [bumper boats](#), state-of-the-art [go-karts](#) and of course, [batting cages](#). For more information call (860) 828-7518.

Golf - [Berlin Batting Cages](#) - Berlin Batting Cages Inc., located in Berlin, CT has four fun activities in one location. They have two [miniature golf courses](#), [bumper boats](#), state-of-the-art [go-karts](#) and of course, [batting cages](#). For more information call (860) 828-7518.

H

Harriet Beecher Stowe Center - The Center, located in Hartford, CT, preserves and interprets Stowe's Hartford home and the Center's historic collections, promotes vibrant discussion of her life and work, and inspires commitment to social justice and positive change.

Hartford Stage - Hartford Stage, located in Hartford, CT, is one of the leading resident theatres in the United States, known internationally for entertaining and enlightening audiences with a wide range of the best of world drama. For more information call (860) 527-5151.

Hiking

Holiday Cards

L

Letterboxing - Letterboxing is an outdoor pastime that combines navigational skills and rubberstamp artistry in a "treasure hunt" style quest. There are a wide variety of adventures suited for all ages and experience levels. For more information visit Letterboxing.org and check out [Letterboxing North America's Facebook](#) page too.

Lyman Orchards - Pick-your-own fruit at Lyman Orchard, located in Middlefield, CT. Before going to pick at Lyman's be sure to call their 24-hour hotline at (860) 349-6015 for up-to-the-minute crop and field conditions, varieties and current prices. Lyman's also have year-round [events](#) such as festivals, competitions and activities for you and your Little to enjoy.

M

Making presents for a parent, grandparent, family member, teacher or friend.

Making holiday cards.

The Mark Twain House & Museum is a national historic landmark in Hartford, CT. The house was home to one of America's most well-known authors, Samuel Clemens (a.k.a. as [Mark Twain](#)) and his family during the late 19th century. [Visitors](#) may enjoy daily [tours](#), rotating exhibits, [educational programs](#) or one of the [events](#) hosted at The Twain House. For more information call (860) 247-0998.

Middletown Roller Skating Rink, located in Middletown, CT offers year-round roller and inline skating. For more information about skating or to host a party call (860) 704-0064.

Miniature Golf - [Berlin Batting Cages](#) - Berlin Batting Cages Inc., located in Berlin, CT has four fun activities in one location. They have two [miniature golf courses](#), [bumper boats](#), state-of-the-art [go-karts](#) and of course, [batting cages](#). For more information call (860) 828-7518.

Movie Fest - Pop some popcorn, make homemade nachos and watch series such as Harry Potter or Shrek.

Museums

The Fire Museum - The Fire Museum, located in Manchester, CT, is housed in a retired 1901 fire station with a unique atmosphere that saw the transition from hand to horse drawn, then motorized equipment. In addition to a working Gamewell Fire Alarm System, their collection includes hundreds of fine examples of early American craftsmanship relating to firefighting such as glassware, lighting, leather making, photography, textiles and paintings. For more information call (860) 649-9436.

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[Mystic Seaport: The Museum of America and the Sea](#) is located in Mystic, CT. If you love all things sea or are looking for an authentic and memorable maritime experience. Plan your [visit](#) to the museum to experience their [educational programs](#), [The Maritime Art Gallery](#) or to perform research in one their [collections](#). The visitor services information phone number is (860) 572-0711. For general information call (860) 572-5302 or (888) 973-2767. Big Brothers and Big Sisters coming to the museum with their Little will receive a 50% discount of admission (for a maximum of two people) with your program identification.

[New Britain Museum of Art](#) - The New Britain Museum of Art, located in New Britain, CT, is designated to be the first museum of strictly American art in the country. The singular focus on American art and its panoramic view of American artistic achievement make the New Britain Museum of American Art a significant teaching resource. The museum offers **free** admission on Saturday mornings. For more information call (860) 229-0257.

[Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History](#) - The museum is located in New Haven, CT. There is **free** admission on holidays. For pre-recorded information call (203) 432-5050. You may also [contact](#) one the various departments at the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History for information on their [collections](#), [educational programs](#), [exhibits](#) or much more.

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N

[Nature's Art](#) - also known as The Dinosaur Place at Nature's Art. Enjoy a day filled with educational fun and adventure at The Dinosaur Place located in Oakdale, CT. The Dinosaur Place has tons of [indoor activities](#) including Jackpot Mine, Thunder Creek and The Bone Zone. Pick your own [geode](#), check out the [Mineral & Fossil Gallery](#), the [Bead Room](#), the [Fluorescent Display](#) and much more. For more information call (860) 443-4367.

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O

Old Sturbridge Village - Old Sturbridge Village, located in Sturbridge, MA is one of America's oldest and largest living history museums. The museum depicts New England life from the late 18th Century to the mid 19th Century. The historians wear costumes and visitors can view antique buildings, water-powered mills, a working farm, antiques, heritage breed animals and enjoy hands on crafts. For more information call (800) 733-1830.

P

Parks - [Connecticut Forest & Park Association](#), [Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association](#)

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Photographs - Taking pictures together and making a scrapbook

Public Library

R

Recreation - [Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association](#)

Roller Skating - [Middletown Roller Skating Rink](#), located in Middletown, CT offers year-round roller and inline skating. For more information about skating or to host a party call (860) 704-0064.

Roller Magic- Roller Magic, located in Waterbury, CT is a year-round roller and inline skating facility. For pre-recorded information call (203) 574-2118 or to speak with someone dial (203) 753-4983.

Ron-A-Roll - Ron-A-Roll located in Vernon, CT is a roller skating rink that offers year-round skating. For more information or the host a party call (860) 872-7094 or (860) 872-8400.

S

[Connecticut Science Center](#) - located in Hartford, CT, the Connecticut Science Center has 150 hands-on exhibits, a state-of-the-art 3D digital theater, four educational labs, plus daily programs and events. It offers exploration for children, teens and adults. From physics to forensics, geology to astronomy, visitors have the sciences at their fingertips. For more information call (860) 724-3623.

Seaport - [Mystic Seaport: The Museum of America and the Sea](#) is located in Mystic, CT. If you love all things sea or are looking for an authentic and memorable maritime experience. Plan your [visit](#) to the museum to experience their [educational programs](#), [The Maritime Art Gallery](#) or to perform research in one their [collections](#). The visitor services information phone number is (860) 572-0711. For general information call (860) 572-5302 or (888) 973-2767. Big Brothers and Big Sisters coming to the museum with their Little will receive a 50% discount of admission (for a maximum of two people) with your program identification.

State Parks

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T

Taking pictures together and making a scrapbook

The area Butterfly Conservatories

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[Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory & Gardens](#) - located in South Deerfield, MA, opened in October 2000. It consists of an 18,400 square foot facility that includes a 8,000 square foot glass conservatory filled with butterflies, moths and tropical vegetation. During cold winter days, a blazing fire is ongoing in the imposing fieldstone fireplace. For more information call (413) 665-2805.

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Touring a college campus

Touring [The Bushnell](#) - [Plan a visit](#) at The Bushnell theatre in Hartford, Connecticut. The Bushnell offers **free** [Guided Tours](#), taking you through the world-class performing arts

center. Call (860) 987- 6033 to schedule a tour. Feel free to take a look at their [calendar](#) to see the upcoming events.

Touring the [Connecticut State Capitol](#) - The Connecticut State Capitol in Hartford offers **free** one-hour guided tours that are youth friendly. For more information call (860) 240-0222.

Trash Museum - Visit the [Connecticut Resources Recovery Trash Museum](#) in Hartford. The Trash Museum offers [education](#) through unique exhibits, programs, [loan kits](#) and [events](#) on the many challenges and solutions of waste management. It also has a viewing area where visitors can observe the working regional recycling center.

U

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Visiting your local Recreation & Parks Association - Find a local program or a local park at [Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association](#).

Visiting your local YMCA -

[Volunteer for a community service project](#) - Call 2-1-1 for local towns that you and your mentee could help. You may also contact your local senior center to read or talk with the residents. Another suggestion is to call a local animal shelter to see if you can help walk the dogs.

W

Wadsworth Antheneum - located in Hartford, CT is the first public art institution in the United States. It is also the first museum in the United States to begin collecting contemporary American art - resulting in their world renowned Hudson River School collection. Plan a visit and learn more about their firsts by calling (860) 278-2670.

Web-based - Fun educational games may be found at [TestPrepFun](#).

Write - Write a short story with your mentee or turn that short story into a movie if you have a video camera.

Y

Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History - The museum is located in New Haven, CT. There is **free** admission on holidays. For pre-recorded information call (203) 432-5050. You may also [contact](#) one the various departments at the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History for information on their [collections](#), [educational programs](#), [exhibits](#) or much more.

YMCA - Find your local [YMCA](#), an inclusive organization committed to nurturing the potential of kids, promoting healthy living and fostering a sense of social responsibility. Meriden's YMCA has free events throughout the year. The national YMCA phone number is (800) 872-9622.