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AUGUST 2026

Connecticut Caregiver Outing Guide

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10 practical community outings in Tolland County

A fun day out, made simple

Enjoy a welcoming outing with caregiver, friends, and up to 2 residents. Choose an adventure, share the experience, and let ElderCrew help you get started.

County quick index

Tolland County

Planning note

August in Connecticut can bring heat, humidity, thunderstorms, poor air quality, and busy shoreline weekends. Favor weekday mornings, keep outdoor time short, carry water, and pair every weather-sensitive plan with a nearby indoor backup. Quiet-time suggestions in this guide are caregiver planning strategies unless a venue-specific sensory resource is explicitly identified.

Tolland County

10 August-ready options | 6 indoor • 3 outdoor • 1 mixed

1. William Benton Museum of Art

Storrs | Indoor | August fit

Why it works: Free university art galleries offer a compact, air-conditioned August visit.

Access & walking: All public areas are wheelchair accessible; power-assist door, elevator, accessible restroom, one wheelchair, large-print labels, and three nearby spaces are confirmed.

Cost: Free.

Sensory plan: Visit at opening on a weekday before fall-term activity increases. Groups of 10+ must reserve.

Details: 245 Glenbrook Road, Storrs, CT 06269 | 860-486-4520 | [Official source](#)

Call ahead: Confirm August gallery hours and obtain the adjacent-lot parking permit at visitor services.

2. Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry

Storrs | Indoor | August fit

Why it works: Small, distinctive puppetry exhibits provide a low-cost indoor outing with visual and cultural interest for all ages.

Access & walking: The storefront-style museum is on one public level; confirm the closest accessible parking and restroom route in Storrs Center.

Cost: Free; donations are welcome. Performances may be ticketed.

Sensory plan: Wednesday or Friday at 11 a.m. is preferable. Avoid summertime show times if a quieter gallery is desired.

Details: 1 Royce Circle, Suite 101B, Storrs, CT 06268 | 860-486-8580 | [Official source](#)

Call ahead: Confirm exhibit hours, parking, and whether a puppet performance overlaps.

3. Nathan Hale Homestead

Coventry | Mixed | August fit

Why it works: The seasonal historic site and surrounding farm landscape connect well to 2026's America 250 themes.

Access & walking: The eighteenth-century house has stairs and uneven grounds; a first-floor, barn, or exterior-focused visit may be required.

Cost: Admission is modest; ask for current senior rate and Museums for All options.

Sensory plan: Book the earliest tour and avoid farmers-market hours if low stimulation is important.

Details: 2299 South Street, Coventry, CT 06238 | 860-742-6917 | [Official source](#)

Call ahead: Confirm 2026 tour times, first-floor access, seating, and restroom facilities.

4. New England Civil War Museum

Vernon | Indoor | August fit

Why it works: Modern displays inside an authentic veterans' hall offer a focused weekend history outing.

Access & walking: The building has an elevator and has been described by the museum as accessible; verify the public entrance and parking route.

Cost: Free; donations support the museum.

Sensory plan: Arrive at 10 a.m. Saturday or Sunday. The small museum is usually manageable, but special programs may increase sound and attendance.

Details: 14 Park Place, Vernon, CT 06066 | 860-870-3563 | [Official source](#)

Call ahead: Confirm elevator operation, admission, and special-event schedule.

5. Arts Center East

Vernon | Indoor | August fit

Why it works: Free rotating art exhibits offer a quiet, air-conditioned afternoon visit during active exhibition weeks.

Access & walking: The organization confirms an ADA-compliant building and accessible parking from Center Road.

Cost: Free; donations welcome. Classes and performances may charge separately.

Sensory plan: Thursday at 1 p.m. is a good quiet target. The gallery closes between exhibitions.

Details: 709 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon, CT 06066 | 860-871-8222 | [Official source](#)

Call ahead: Confirm that an exhibition is installed and no class or performance overlaps.

6. Vernon Historical Society

Vernon | Indoor | August fit

Why it works: Local textile, agriculture, and community-history exhibits make a low-cost, compact outing.

Access & walking: The society's main building is described as fully accessible and includes an elevator and public restroom.

Cost: Free; donations welcome.

Sensory plan: Choose the first public hour and avoid sale or lecture dates.

Details: 734 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon, CT 06066 | 860-875-4326 | [Official source](#)

Call ahead: Confirm August open hours and whether all exhibits are available.

7. Hall Memorial Library

Ellington | Indoor | August fit

Why it works: A spacious public library offers free cooling, reading, displays, and seating with a flexible visit length.

Access & walking: The building has an elevator; confirm the closest accessible entrance and parking space.

Cost: Free; programs may require registration.

Sensory plan: Weekday 10 a.m. is preferable. August Saturday hours end at 1 p.m., and children's programs may add noise.

Details: 93 Main Street, Ellington, CT 06029 | 860-870-3160 | [Official source](#)

Call ahead: Confirm program times, elevator service, and quiet seating.

8. Bigelow Hollow State Park

Union | Outdoor | August fit

Why it works: A pond-view picnic offers a rural August outing without requiring the park's long, rugged trails.

Access & walking: Accessible parking, picnic tables, restrooms, and an accessible fishing platform at Bigelow Pond/Mashapaug launch are listed; trails are rugged.

Cost: Free for Connecticut-registered vehicles; out-of-state parking is \$10 weekdays and \$15 weekends/holidays.

Sensory plan: Arrive at 8 a.m. on a weekday; the lot can fill in summer. Stay near the picnic and launch area.

Details: 298 Bigelow Hollow Road, Union, CT 06076 | 860-684-3430 | [Official source](#)

Call ahead: Confirm parking capacity, restroom status, and fishing-platform route.

9. Valley Falls Park

Vernon | Outdoor | August fit

Why it works: A short picnic, pond view, or Braille-trail segment can fit a mild August morning.

Access & walking: The town lists a Braille trail, but complete wheelchair access and surface condition are not confirmed. Avoid steeper hiking routes.

Cost: Free; seasonal swimming rules may apply.

Sensory plan: Go early on a weekday and avoid swimming-program periods. Bring an indoor backup for heat or storms.

Details: Valley Falls Road, Vernon, CT 06066 | 860-870-3520 | [Official source](#)

Call ahead: Confirm gate hours, lifeguard/swimming status, accessible restroom, and trail surface.

10. Hop River State Park Trail at Bolton Notch

Bolton | Outdoor | August fit

Why it works: The flat rail-trail allows an out-and-back outing of any length under summer tree cover.

Access & walking: The official page does not claim accessibility for this trail. Surface, grade, and road crossings vary; inspect a very short section only.

Cost: Free.

Sensory plan: Use a weekday morning and turn back early. Bikes can approach quietly, so maintain close supervision and stay to one side.

Details: Bolton Notch, junction of Routes 44 and 6, Bolton | 860-295-9523 | [Official source](#)

Call ahead: Confirm the best firm-surface trailhead and any construction or washouts.

Before You Leave

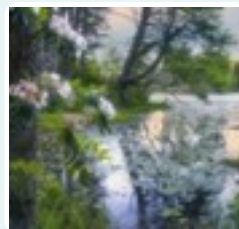
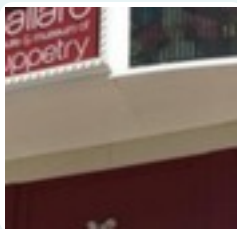
A two-minute confirmation call can prevent a difficult arrival. Check each item against the individual care plan.

- Current public hours, last admission, reservations, and group-size rules
- Accessible parking or drop-off, entrance, elevator/lift dimensions, seating, and route length
- Accessible restroom availability and the distance from the planned activity
- Admission, caregiver/support-person policy, library passes, and payment method
- Weather, heat index, air quality, water quality, trail or beach conditions, and an indoor backup
- Transportation timing, vehicle temperature, hydration, medication schedule, meals, and rest breaks
- Expected noise, lighting, crowds, school groups, camps, concerts, or special events
- Client preferences, consent, dignity, clothing, mobility equipment, and communication supports
- Organization policies, approved staffing level, emergency contacts, and return-time plan

Scope and safety note. These are planning suggestions, not guarantees of accessibility, clinical appropriateness, supervision level, transportation safety, or individual suitability. Public details can change. Caregivers should follow their organization's policies, care plans, staffing requirements, and emergency procedures.

READY TO EXPLORE?

We've picked 5 destinations in Tolland County that residents may love to discover.



TURN THE PAGE →

Your next ElderCrew adventure could be waiting.

TOP 5 MUST-SEE DESTINATIONS

IN TOLLAND COUNTY



1 • STORRS • INDOOR

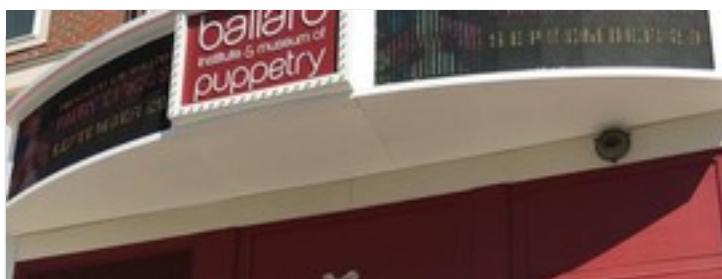
William Benton Museum of Art

Enjoy a welcoming university museum where art encourages discovery and conversation.

WHY RESIDENTS MAY LOVE IT

Compact galleries make it easy to build a comfortable, self-paced cultural outing.

[LEARN MORE ›](#)



2 • STORRS • INDOOR

Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry

See imaginative puppets and performance traditions from around the world.

WHY RESIDENTS MAY LOVE IT

Expressive characters and craftsmanship offer playful visual interest and rich conversation starters.

[LEARN MORE ›](#)



3 • COVENTRY • MIXED

Nathan Hale Homestead

Step into Revolutionary-era Connecticut at the historic family home of Nathan Hale.

WHY RESIDENTS MAY LOVE IT

The house and farm landscape can bring history to life and connect naturally with America 250 themes.

[LEARN MORE ›](#)



4 • UNION • OUTDOOR

Bigelow Hollow State Park

Take in a tranquil pond framed by deep forest in Connecticut's Quiet Corner.

WHY RESIDENTS MAY LOVE IT

A waterside view or picnic can offer fresh air and a soothing change of scenery.

[LEARN MORE ›](#)



5 • VERNON • OUTDOOR

Valley Falls Park

Enjoy a picturesque pond, woodland setting, and traces of the area's mill history.

WHY RESIDENTS MAY LOVE IT

A short viewpoint visit or picnic can feel peaceful while keeping the plan flexible.

[LEARN MORE ›](#)

CAREGIVER TIP

Call ahead to confirm accessibility, seating, parking, current hours, and the best route for your resident.

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