

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Parks and Recreation office:** Colchester Town Hall: 127 Norwich Ave, Suite 107, Colchester CT

**Office Phone Number:** (860) 537-7297

**Email:** parksandrec@colchesterct.gov

**Website:** <https://www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department>

**Online Registration:** <https://colchesterctrec.recdesk.com/Community/Home>

**Payment Accepted:** All major credit cards, checks and cash.

## **INCLUSION POLICY**

Colchester Parks & Recreation recognizes that every person is unique and brings with them a wide range of skills and abilities. We continuously strive to provide challenging experiences so that all can achieve their full potential. As such, we encourage and support individuals with disabilities to fully participate in all programs offered by our department. Please let us know how we can accommodate you. The town of Colchester abides by all guidelines of the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

## **PROGRAM CHANGES**

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information presented in this program guide. However, all courses, instructors, locations, and fees described are subject to change.

## **WEATHER/CANCELLATION POLICY**

Please check our website at <https://www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department> for weather cancellations. We will make every effort to email or call participants if we must cancel a program due to weather.

## **REFUNDS**

Colchester Parks & Recreation stands behind our community programs. All programs, events and activities are self-funded and must cover all costs associated with the activity. With that in mind, we will gladly help all participants with any registration or refund requests to the best of our ability. Refund requests must be made in writing. Refunds will be given if requested at least two weeks prior to the start of the program. Any request made within two weeks of the start of the program will be issued as a credit to the participants' account for future use. Once the program has started, no refunds or credits will be issued unless the program is cancelled by Colchester Parks and Recreation. Certain programs, including Day Camp and bus trips, may have different refund policies. Participants with extenuating circumstances may request a review of their case by providing written documentation of their situation to the Recreation Director.

A \$15 cancellation fee will be charged for all refunds and credits requested by a participant.

## **HOW TO REGISTER**

### **ONLINE**

For your convenience, registrations can be done online. Simply go to <https://www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department>, click on "Register Online" tab on the left and then follow the instructions to set up an account and register online. All major credit cards are accepted. Please call the Recreation Office (860-537-7297) for assistance if needed. We are always here to help.

### **MAIL IN/DROP OFF**

If you would like to mail in your registration, please fill out a registration form and mail it in, with a check, to: Colchester Parks and Recreation, 127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, CT 06415 Likewise, you may visit us in our office at the Town Hall.

## **EVENTS**

### **TRAIL MEDALLIONS**

Keep your eyes peeled while you're out exploring our trails, and don't forget to register your medallions at <https://colchesterct.gov/medals>

If you find one, you get to keep it...Get out there and start exploring! If you have already found one, congrats! You can find remaining medals on the Airline Trail (Colchester/Westchester section), Cohen Woodlands, Sablitz Preserve, and Bulkeley Hill Preserve! More medals will be hidden soon...so stay tuned!

### **HOLIDAY HOME AND BUSINESS DECORATING CONTEST 2025**

Do you go all-out for the holidays? Show Colchester your holiday spirit! Register your home or business by 11/24/25 and decorate by 12/1/25. Use our free map to view all of the holiday decorations and vote for your favorites between 12/1/25 -12/31/25. Maps will be available at [www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department](http://www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department) and our Facebook page- Colchester Parks and Recreation

### **GINGEBREAD HOUSE DECORATING COMPETITION**

Drop your gingerbread house to the Recreation Department at Town Hall between November 25<sup>th</sup>- December 1st. They will be displayed throughout the month of December in the lobby of the Colchester Town Hall. All visitors will be encouraged to vote for their favorite gingerbread house. Each gingerbread house will be awarded a fun superlative. Families and friends are encouraged to work together to submit creative entries.

### **NATIONAL DAY OF GIVING**

National Day of Giving is recognized as an opportunity to support organizations that rely on the generosity of their community. At Colchester Parks and Recreation, we need your support to allow every child to attend camp- whether their family can afford it or not. Camp can change a child's life and we want to share that experience with everyone. Through our website, you can

donate to support our camp scholarship! This year, the Day of Giving is Tuesday, December 2, 2025.

### **HOLIDAY HOMECOMING**

Santa will arrive on the decorated firetruck and will visit every child!. There are fun activities for everyone: enjoy hot cocoa, hot cider and cookies; pick up your annual holiday ornament; bring a new and unwrapped gift for the police toy drive; bring your letter to Santa (every letter will get a personal response!); watch the CCO concert; enjoy a bonfire and carol sing!

- When: Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025, starting at 4:30pm
- Where: Colchester Town Green

### **HOLIDAY ORNAMENTS**

Every year the Recreation Commission chooses a Colchester landmark for the annual holiday ornament. Collect a new one every year! Ornaments are \$6 each and can be purchased at Holiday Homecoming (Sat., Dec. 6 at 4:30 pm on the Town Green) or at the Recreation office.

### **A CHRISTMAS STORY: A Staged Reading (Based on the 1983 motion picture)**

Join the Colchester Actors Theatre and share the holiday spirit with friends and neighbors.

Auditions will be held November 10<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at the Colchester Senior Center. We will be casting actors aged 7-99! More information can be found on our website at

[www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department](http://www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department).

- When: The performance will be held on Friday, December 12, 2025, and Saturday, December 13, 2025, at 6:30pm
- Where: Colchester Federated Church
- Tickets are available in advance or at the door.

## **ADULT PROGRAMS**

### **COLCHESTER CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA**

We look forward to welcoming new members looking for a social orchestra and choir with a passion for music. Seats are open in all sections, both Choir & Orchestra. Many adult members join with their school-aged children and/or spouses. It is truly a family activity. There are no auditions, but being able to read music is helpful. Rehearsals are held on Thursday evenings throughout the year beginning in September. For more information, to register and to see videos of past performances and for more information go to our website:

<https://www.colchesterct.gov/colchester-choir-orchestra>

Rehearsals are held on Thursdays: Choir 6-7:15 pm and Orchestra 7:45-9:00 pm

### **EARRING MAKING CLASS**

Make your own earrings using Wabi Sabi collage techniques! Using paint, foam stamps, collage papers, and foils we will create mini paper collages that will be combined with a textured metal frame of aluminum, brass or copper and embellished with various beads and findings to create one-of-a-kind pierced dangle earrings.

Day 1 – You will create your paper collage, cut out, texture and sand your metal frames. Collages will be left to dry.

Day 2 – You will put all the pieces and parts together with beads and other fun embellishments to create your finished earrings. (Each participant will leave with at least 2 complete pairs of earrings.)

Skill Level: Beginner, we will be working with small pieces and mini beading tools.

Materials Needed: Participants are encouraged to bring a pair of garden gloves if they have them for use when cutting the metal. Instructor will have a few extra pair participants can borrow. All other materials will be provided by instructor.

- When: Wednesdays, November 5<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>
- Where: Colchester Senior Center
- Who: Ages 15 and older
- \$45 residents, \$50 non-residents
- Minimum of 5, maximum of 16
- Instructor: Jodi Savage

### **PUZZLEPALOOZA**

A new twist on game night! How fast can you complete a puzzle? Register as a team or single (we will pair you up with others). You can come with as many as 4 people, all teams get the same puzzle and the first one to finish wins a prize. Each team gets to bring the puzzle home. Are you ready for some fun competition! We will have up to 10 teams compete to complete the same puzzle. No more than 4 people per team, only 1 person has to register for their team, a maximum of 10 teams will be allowed. Children can be included on a team, but there must be at least 2 adults on each team. Bring your own snacks and get ready for some fun!

- When: Fridays from 6:00pm-8:00pm
  - 2025: November 14, 2025 (REGISTER BY NOV. 7)
  - 2026: January 23, February 20, March 20, April 24
- Where: Colchester Senior Center
- \$25/ Team/ Day
- Preregistration required
- Maximum of 10 teams of 4 (1 person register per team)

## **YOGA FOR SENIORS**

ONLINE with Facebook Live- Gentle Yoga is perfect for age 45 and over to explore yoga postures, breathing techniques and meditation. Yoga improves your balance and strength, stretches your entire body, and focuses your mind and calms your emotions. All levels of fitness or yoga experience are welcome.

- Mondays from 4:45pm-5:45pm
- November 17-December 8, 2025
- \$35 for residents, \$40 for non-residents (4 weeks)
- Instructor: Anne Beauregard
- Facebook Live (the private link will be mailed to you after you register)

## **YOUTH PROGRAMS**

### **COLCHESTER YOUTH THEATRE WINTER SHOW**

Get ready for the spotlight with this exhilarating 9-week acting intensive/ play rehearsal! You'll be cast in several roles, dive deep into production, and bring an original play to life in a dazzling public performance on March 18th. Scene-work, character building, and show-stopping moments await! Come on board and let Colchester Youth Theatre help you become the shining star you were born to be!

- When: Wednesdays, 5:30pm-6:30pm
  - Jan. 14, 2026 – March 18, 2026
  - No program 2/4
- Where: Colchester Senior Center
- Who: Grades 2-8
- Cost: \$160 residents / \$165 non-residents
- Minimum 10, Maximum 30

### **START SMART MULTI SPORT (WINTER 25)**

Children and their parents learn basic motor skills such as throwing, catching, kicking, batting and agility without the threat of competition or the fear of getting hurt. Games are played using new skills! Children learn the skills but have fun in the process.

- When: Wednesdays, November 5-December 10, 2025, from 5:30-6:30pm
- No program on 11/26, makeup date 12/17 if needed
- Where: CES Gym
- Cost: \$50
- Who: Ages: 3-5
- Minimum of 6, maximum of 12

**COMING SOON-** BASKETBALL, MULTI SPORTS, BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

### **\*\*NEW\*\* TODDLER CREATIVE MOVEMENT**

This class introduces little ones to the joy of dance in a playful and nurturing environment. Through fun music and imaginative activities, dancers will explore age-appropriate skills such as following directions, building balance, improving coordination, and developing body awareness. Using games, props, and movement exercises, toddlers will strengthen motor skills, boost listening skills, and express themselves through creative movement—all while learning to move to music and interact with others in a positive, encouraging space.

- When: Thursdays, Nov. 6, 2025-Jan. 15, 2026, from 5:15-6:15pm
- Where: Studio E Dance and Acro, 711 Middletown Rd., Colchester CT
- Who: children ages 1.5-3 years of age
- Cost: \$138 per child

### **YOGA, MINDFUL TOOLS, AND MORE!**

This class will have children making, using and taking home tools to help support yoga and mindful practices. The tools will include a Kind Wishes Wand, Breathing Book, Glitter Jar and Finger Labyrinths. This class is for children enrolled at CES grades K-2. The instructor will meet students after school and walk them to the Where of the class at CES. Parents/Guardians will pick up their child at 4:30. Please have your child wear comfortable clothes and bring a water bottle. Yoga mats and all materials will be provided.

- When: Wednesdays, November 12-December 10 2025. Class held after school until 4:30pm. No class will be held on 11/26.
- Where: CES Library
- Who: CES Students, grades K-2
- Cost: \$55
- Minimum of 6, maximum of 8
- Instructor: Susie Hawkins