

Enjoy Hartford This Summer

By Matt Ritter

Summer for me means family time in Elizabeth Park, walking Dublin in the late evening sunshine, and enjoying all that our city has to offer.

Hartford is full of life in the summer. But summer can also be challenging for families looking to keep their youngsters busy. Between festivals, activities and summer camps, Hartford has what you need.

Pools

Depending on budgetary constraints, the city's public pools are always a popular spot on a hot day:

- Colt Park Pool
- Goodwin Park Pool
- Keney Park Pool
- Pope Park Pool

Activities

There are also a number of activities and festivals this summer. I'll highlight just a few...

The Connecticut Butterfly Association and Cedar Hill Cemetery are hosting a free butterfly hunt on Saturday, June 16 at 10:00 am. With nearly 20 species known to visit Cedar Hill, volunteers will help find and net butterflies for viewing. Hiking shoes, long pants and bug repellent are recommended.

Hartford Latino Fest is scheduled for Saturday, June 23 from noon to 9:00 pm at Riverfront Plaza. The event celebrates the past, present, and future of Hartford's Latino community and Latin culture. There will be performances, games and food.

Also at Riverfront Plaza is the RiverFest Food Truck Festival. This delicious event runs Thursday, July 12 - Saturday, July 14. These four wheel gourmets will have everything you need for a great meal along the river.

Camps

[Connecticut Science Center](#)'s *Summer Exploration Camp*. This camp is about fun and learning. Campers in grades 1-6 receive hands-on enrichment through science, fun and engaging activities. Call the Science Center for details at (860) 520-2177.

Boys and Girls Clubs of Hartford 2018 Summer Fun Club. The Summer Fun Club offers a variety of activities that are age-appropriate and designed to offer children and early teens a full day of learning and fun during the summer. Call the Boys and Girls Clubs to register (860) 247-0018.

Hartford Stage Summer Studio. Have a teen who is looking to tread the boards? This is a great camp where teens will have the opportunity to rehearse and perform in a full production of Pippin, which will be performed at Hartford Stage in downtown Hartford. Call (860) 520-7244 for info.

More information on additional camps and programs is available at kids.ct.gov.

Have a great, fun and safe summer!