



# Connecticut

As an au pair trying to decide where you would like to spend your year in the United States, it's easy to choose the state that you see on the big screen or that you read about in magazines and newspapers. However, before you brush Connecticut aside, consider the information below. We're sure you'll find that Connecticut would be a wonderful place to spend your program year!

Connecticut is located in the northeastern region of the United States known as New England. It has a relatively mild climate throughout the year with moderate rainfall. Living in Connecticut provides close access to other major cities in the region, including Providence, New York City, and Boston. Union station at Hartford provides easy access to Amtrak, buses, and cabs that connect you to these cities and other states across the U.S. Another close neighbor is Canada, where Toronto, Montreal, and Niagara Falls are within driving distance away.

Connecticut is fun all year round! The different seasons are what make Connecticut and all of New England so beautiful and special. Autumn is an especially wonderful time to explore and travel the coast and the hills of the state and the entire region. You can admire the fall foliage and eat up the harvest delights, such as apples, squash and pumpkins. The beaches are still warm and a lot less crowded than the busy summer months and don't forget Halloween and the numerous ghost tours and hunts that take place in Hartford and throughout the state.



The wintertime brings more fun outdoor activities! You can ski or snowboard at Ski Sundown in New Haven or Powder Ridge in Middlefield. If you're afraid of heights you can go cross-country skiing at one of the many state parks. Sledding, snowmobiling, and ice-skating are also popular winter sports.

Spring and summer are fabulous times to be in Connecticut. The beaches heat up and you can head outdoors to admire Connecticut's natural wonders. You can take a Connecticut River

cruise or get a tan at the Misquamicut Beach, a clean, white sand beach that extends all the way to Rhode Island. Afterwards, you can take a stroll along Mystic Seaport, where the popular Mystic Marine Life Aquarium is nearby and where there's plenty of nightlife when the sun goes down. Or you may visit Ocean Beach Park in New London,

where there is a boardwalk and water park. And then there is Lake Compounce in Bristol, a family theme park that has roller coasters, waterslides, and live entertainment. In addition, there are state parks located throughout the state where you can go hiking, fishing, biking, or camping.



Aside from an abundant array of outdoor activities, Connecticut boasts a variety of historical and cultural attractions. You can hop on board one of the Heritage Trails Sightseeing Tours that takes you to historic homes and graveyards through the capital city of Hartford and its surrounding areas. You can also pay a visit to the brief home of the legendary American author, Mark Twain. Each city, especially Hartford and New Haven, has a very vibrant nightlife, with a variety of clubs to bars, to lounges with live jazz, blues, and rock music. If you enjoy sports, catch a Hartford Wolf Pack hockey game or go watch the University of Connecticut men's and women's championship basketball teams at the Hartford Civic Center. There are also plenty of museums to visit, such as the Windsor Historical Society in Windsor or the Shoreline Trolley Museum in East Haven.

The 25-mile stretch between the greater Hartford to the greater Springfield area is known as the Knowledge Corridor because it is the second largest education center in New England. This area alone has 32 higher education institutions, including Trinity College, the University of Hartford, the University of Connecticut, Amherst College and the University of Massachusetts. The world famous Yale University is located in New Haven and its presence has made that area a wonderful college town. Of course, there are also community colleges to choose from, such as Asnuntuck Community College, Capital Community College, Manchester Community College, and Tunxis Community College. It shouldn't be hard to find a school to fulfill your educational component!

With so much to do, we're sure you'll agree that Connecticut would be a wonderful place to spend your time while in America.