



CT State Library

Museum of Connecticut History

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*Images: Hiking Through History, 2025
Hiking Through History, Suffield 2023*

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HIT THE TRAILS WITH THE MUSEUM OF CONNECTICUT HISTORY

“Hiking Through History” Explores the State’s Scenic and Historic Locations

(Hartford, CT): Grab your walking shoes and join us for a series of hikes highlighting some of Connecticut’s most scenic and historic locations! The Museum of Connecticut History, located at the Connecticut State Library, kicks off its fifth year of “Hiking Through History” on Friday, April 11 with a guided tour of the Windsor Locks Canal in Suffield where hikers will experience both the natural beauty of the Connecticut River and man-made history of this nearly 200-year-old canal.

The Hiking Through History series offers a unique opportunity to explore Connecticut on foot. Each tour is led by Museum Curator Patrick Smith, who conducts extensive research to select locations that offer a mixture of scenic beauty, interesting history, and fascinating legend and lore. The series offers monthly hikes at different locations April through October 2025.

After April’s hike in Suffield, Hiking Through History travels to Groton on May 16 to explore Bluff Point State Park, one of the only undeveloped areas of Connecticut shoreline with surprising history and stunning views. On June 20, hikers convene in Litchfield to explore Topsmead State Forest and its diverse landscape, formal gardens, and links to Connecticut’s industrial past. On July 18, the museum and the Glastonbury Historical Society will co-host a hike of the industrial ruins at Cotton Hollow Preserve (Glastonbury), followed by a tour of a Historical Society property. The series will visit the Hartford/East Hartford Riverfront on August 8 to stroll along the banks of the Connecticut River and visit nearby locations in downtown Hartford. On September 19, hikers will trek a portion of the Old Connecticut Path at Fenton-Ruby Park in Willington, just as Thomas Hooker did on his way to settle Hartford in 1636. On

October 17, the 2025 Hiking Through History series concludes with a walk through Penwood State Park in Bloomfield/Simsbury, a fascinating landscape with hidden history, traprock ridges, and spectacular views.

All Hiking Through History walks begin at 10 a.m. and are approximately two hours in duration. There is no fee to participate, but registration is required. Please register at <https://bit.ly/hth2025>. Participants may choose one, some, or all of the hikes. Space is limited; first come, first served.

Upon registration, additional information will be shared about each hike. Most hikes are designed for a leisurely to moderate walking pace. Some trails are unpaved and often uneven; user discretion is advised. Appropriate walking gear is recommended. Guests are encouraged to bring water and a snack, as well as sunscreen and bug spray, if desired. For more information, please contact Patrick Smith via email at Patrick.j.smith@ct.gov or by phone at (860) 757-6534.

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The Museum of Connecticut History, a unit of the Connecticut State Library, chronicles the growth of the state and its role in the development of the nation from the Colonial era to the present. The mission of the museum is to connect the experience of residents and museum visitors to the artifacts, images, and documents of the past, increasing awareness of and pride in the state's political, military, and industrial history and building commitment to preserving and sharing its cultural heritage. The Museum of Connecticut History is located within the Connecticut State Library and Supreme Court building, 231 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Admission is always free! Learn more at [Museum of Connecticut History](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [X](#)

About the Connecticut State Library: The Connecticut State Library is a gateway to lifelong learning for all residents and visitors, inspiring a shared and informed future through our diverse, historic, and cultural resources. As an independent Executive Branch agency founded in 1854, the State Library is home to the State Archives, Office of the Public Records Administrator, Museum of Connecticut History, the Division of Library Development and the Connecticut Library for Accessible Books, and three reference departments (history and genealogy; law and legislation; and government information). Through these units, the agency provides a variety of archival, public records, museum, library, information, and administrative services. Open to residents and users from beyond state borders, the State Library serves the employees and officials of all three branches of state government, students, teachers, researchers, town governments, and anyone seeking information within its collections. Connect with us! [CT State Library](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [X](#)