

Plenty of chances to Get Up, Get Out and Get Active

By Breanna Benevenga

Summer is almost here, and Charlotte County Community Services is ready to help residents make the most of it. Whether you're looking for ways to keep the kids busy, stay active, explore the outdoors, or simply enjoy time with family and friends, there is no shortage of opportunities to Get Up, Get Out, and Get Active this season.

One of the best ways to beat the Florida heat is by visiting one of Charlotte County's public pools. Conveniently located throughout the county, these facilities offer a variety of amenities, including competition pools, lap lanes, water aerobics classes, and recreational swimming opportunities. For families and younger children, there are several splash pools and splash pads that are great for family fun.

Summer is also a great time to strengthen water safety skills. Charlotte County pools offer swim lessons for all ages — from infants as young as six months to adults — helping participants build confidence, develop skills, and stay safe in and around the water. Lessons are available through August. For more information, visit CharlotteCountyFL.gov/pools.

While school is out, recreation centers across the county come alive with the sounds of summer camp. Campers spend their days enjoying field trips, pool visits, games, arts and crafts, water activities, and opportunities to build lasting friendships. These programs create memorable experiences while providing families with fun, safe, and engaging summer options.

July is National Park and Recreation Month, and Charlotte County is celebrating in a big way. Residents are invited to enjoy free admission to all county pools on July 18 during our annual Free Pool Day. It's the perfect opportunity to cool off, connect with neighbors, and celebrate the many benefits parks and recreation bring to our community.

For those who prefer to spend time outdoors, summer is also a wonderful season to explore Charlotte County's parks and natural areas. Many parks offer shaded walking trails beneath mature tree canopies, covered picnic pavilions, playgrounds, and scenic waterfront views. Pack plenty of water, bring a picnic lunch, and spend the day enjoying nature. As always, visitors are encouraged to respect wildlife, avoid feeding animals, and help keep parks beautiful by carrying out everything they bring in. Be on the lookout for a fun social media photo contest this summer encouraging our community to share photos of where they #StressLess in Charlotte County. Follow @CharcoParks on Instagram and Charlotte County Parks & Recreation on Facebook.

Another beloved summer tradition is now underway at Charlotte County Libraries. The 2026 Summer Reading Program, themed "Unearth Your Story," encourages children, teens, and families to discover new ideas, spark creativity, and explore the joy of lifelong learning through books, activities, and hands-on experiences.

Although the program has officially begun, there's still plenty of time to participate. Families can register in person at any Charlotte County library branch or online at CharlotteCountyFL.gov/Libraries. Throughout the summer, libraries will host free programs, activities, and educational events designed to keep young minds engaged while school is out.

Make sure to add visiting the new Makerspace and Kids Makerspace at Mid-County Regional Library to your summer bucket list! These creative spaces provide opportunities for children, teens, and adults to explore technology, design, crafting, and hands-on learning in a fun and welcoming environment.

In July, Charlotte County Libraries and History will commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence with a series of special events. On July 1, 7, and 9, the Port Charlotte Public Library, Punta Gorda Charlotte Library, and Mid-County Regional Library will host public readings of the Declaration of Independence, accompanied by historical context from Charlotte County Historian Dr. Jennifer Zoebelen. On July 11, the Englewood Charlotte Library will host a Patriotic Party featuring festive crafts, patriotic activities, and red, white, and blue treats for families to enjoy.

No matter your age or interests, Charlotte County offers countless ways to make summer memorable. Whether you're swimming laps, exploring a park, attending camp, discovering a new book, or creating something unique in a library makerspace, Community Services has something for everyone.

We hope you'll join us this summer and discover all the ways Charlotte County can help you Get Up, Get Out, and Get Active.

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