



# winter program guide 2024-25

Stonington Community Center  
28 Cutler Street  
Stonington, Connecticut  
06378

860-535-2476  
[thecomo.org](http://thecomo.org)



the  
como

## adult pottery

### ✦ adult wheel thrown pottery with lyndsay meiklem dean

**Thursdays 6-8:30 pm (Ages 18+)**

Jan 9 – Feb 27 \$315 (members) \$345 (non-members)

Beginners and experienced potters can explore the craft of pottery in a supportive, casual environment. Dive into wheel throwing, forming basic shapes, attaching handles, playing with texture, refining your work, glazing, & finishing with the guidance of a professional potter.

### ✦ pottery with justin

**Tues 3-5:30 pm | Thurs 12-2:30 pm (Ages 16+)**

Dec 5–Feb 13 | Jan 7–Feb 25

\$315 (members) \$345 (non-members)

This class is devoted to the understanding & practices of the joys of ceramics. No experience required. Learn the fundamentals of throwing on the wheel, hand-building and glazing, so that by the end of the class you will have a portfolio of finished work. The main goal of this class is to create, as well as appreciate, expressive and beautiful three-dimensional clay forms.

**\*Please note:** Weekly bench time is included in the class on Saturdays from 1 to 3:30pm. Clay purchase is required for anyone taking a class for the first time. Make up classes will be held the week after the scheduled session ends. See website for more info.

### ✦ independent potter program

Independent Potters are selected capable potters who work on their own in the studio, with additional access to the studio. Email [pottery@thecomoo.org](mailto:pottery@thecomoo.org) for more info.

### ✦ sip 'n' spin

**Fridays 6-8 pm (Ages 21+) \$70 each**

Nov 22 | Dec 6 | Dec 20 | Jan 3 | Jan 17 | Jan 31 | Feb 14 | Feb 28

Bring your favorite wine or brew and sip through a professional wheel-throwing demo. Then, receive instruction on how to throw your own creation on the pottery wheel or by hand-building. Clay and firing for three pieces included.

## adult cooking

### ✦ raffetto's palate

**Fridays 5:30-8 pm (Ages 21+) \$70 each**

Dec 13 | Jan 10, 24 | Feb 14, 28 | March 14, 28

Participants will cook in small teams and learn how ingredients work together to make flavorful dishes. After all the cooking is done, it will be time to taste! Bring your favorite wine or brew to enjoy. Each class will feature a carefully curated menu by Susan Raffetto. Max 15 participants – register early!

### **SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!**

apply at [www.thecomoo.org/financial-aid](http://www.thecomoo.org/financial-aid)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## adult makerspace

### ✦ fundamentals of drawing with the mystic museum of art

New!

**Wednesdays 6:30-8:30 pm (Ages 18+)**

Jan 8–Feb 5 | Feb 19–Mar 19

\$220 (member) \$250 (non-member)

In this class, you will learn to accurately represent the physical world as a two-dimensional image by studying the shapes within a form and the interplay of light and shadow on the object. We will explore various mark making techniques using graphite pencils and learn the elements of composition and perspective. Give it a try; it will change the way you see the world!

## pickleball

### ✦ indoor pickleball open play

**Pickleball is included in all adult memberships! (Ages 18+)**

**Registration for free program is required.**

Pickleball Open Play Schedule:\*

Monday–Friday – 12–2 pm

Friday – 8–10 pm

Sunday – 7–9 am

**\*Please note:** Schedule subject to change depending on attendance and gym availability. Please find the most up-to-date schedule at [thecomoo.org/pickleball](http://thecomoo.org/pickleball)

## racquet memberships

Paddle season is coming! Head to the COMO website to check out our full membership benefits, including the ability to reserve court time and book private lessons with our nationally-ranked COMO racquet pro, Jerry Albrikes. Paddle clinics and leagues available with a active membership.

## como thrift

### ✦ reduce-reuse-rejoice!

**45 Cutler St. Stonington, CT 06378**

Open Tues–Sat 10 am–4 pm | Sunday 12–4 pm

Donations accepted Tues–Sat 10 am–3 pm

### Upcoming Events:

After Hours Shopping Event – Galentine's Day!

Thursday, Feb 13 5–7 pm

The COMO Thrift Shop's inventory features quality, gently-used clothing, furniture, jewelry, books, bric-a-brac, one-of-a-kind treasures, and more! Every item comes from the donations of our generous patrons. Your support is what helps the COMO and its programs year-round.



# the COMO mission:

**"To inspire a welcoming, collaborative, and engaged community through intellectual growth, active play, and creative expression."**

## preschool



### ✦ doris muller preschool program

**Full Day:** 9 am–4 pm \*Choose from 2,3,4, or 5 days

**Morning Preschool:** 9 am–12 pm

**Before/After Care available!**

COMO Preschool, a NAEYC–accredited program, implements a curriculum that integrates the principles of the Bank Street Approach, helping children develop age-appropriate skills through play, guided exploration, and rich experiential learning.

Add your future preschooler to our Enrollment Wait List for the 2025–26, 2026–27, AND 2027–28 Preschool Years! Please note, there is a fee of \$50 to register for the enrollment wait list.

## como kids

### **A State-Licensed Childcare Program for Elementary and Middle School Students**

COMO Kids is more than just before and after care. Our highly-trained and compassionate staff are committed to fostering a safe, supportive, and fun atmosphere with a curriculum that emphasizes educational and social growth. COMO Kids enjoy access to the entire 16-acre COMO campus with activities that spark curiosity, encourage exploration, fuel imaginations, and promote healthy friendships and community building. Before Care starts at 7 a.m. and After Care ends at 6 p.m.

## school's out!

### **2024–2025 School's Out Days:**

December 23 | December 26 | December 27 | December 30 |  
January 27 | March 7 | April 14–18

### **Member Pricing:**

**Half Day \$44 Full Day \$61 Before/After Care \$12**

**\*Non-members add \$10 (full) \$5 (half)**

School's Out! offers a fun, curriculum-based, program for families with K–8 youth that need care during scheduled school vacations and days off. Register for full or half-day sessions or a mix! Participants engage in exciting activities throughout the COMO campus, utilizing areas such as the pottery studio, tennis courts, makerspace, soccer fields, outdoor classroom, Children's Learning Garden, and more.

## como leadership program

### **Open to Grades 5–12**

**New Leaders: \$290 | Returning Leaders: \$194**

Youth advocacy and leadership program for students entering 5th–12th grade. Members have access to a diverse selection of volunteering, mentorship, and leadership opportunities to fulfill volunteer hours and get engaged in the community.

## college prep

### ✦ college application support

**Sundays 9:30–11:30 am (Ages 14+)**

**Each Session: \$25 (member) \$30 (non-member)**

This program provides a supportive space for seniors to work on their college applications. Sessions will begin with goal setting for the two hours. Small group and one on one support will be provided to enhance productivity during session. Students will have the opportunity to independently work on their specified goals. Refreshments provided!

### ✦ lentz & lentz sat prep

**Sundays 6–9 pm (Ages 14+)**

**Register through Lentz & Lentz \$55/per student**

Designed to benefit students of all ability levels, Lentz & Lentz programs are divided equally between English and Math and cover all facets of the SAT. Class features test-taking techniques, preparation for the essay, practice SAT(s), advanced math and shortcut math, vocabulary development, speed-reading, and online lesson podcasts for supplemental review. The podcasts are extremely helpful to all students, especially those with cognitive and perceptual disabilities.

## creative writing

### ✦ write where you wander

**Sundays 2–4 pm (Ages 7–12)**

**\*3 Classes per session\* Jan 19 | Feb 16 | March 16  
\$90 (members) \$120 (non-members)**

Our "Write Where You Wander" family program ignites young imaginations through monthly explorations of some of the region's most inspiring locations. From the Mystic Museum of Art and its local artwork, to the Florence Griswold Museum with its historical landscapes, and the Stonington Lighthouse Museum, rich in maritime history. We'll also visit the James Merrill House, a renowned literary landmark where the poet James Merrill lived and wrote. Each visit is followed by guided writing sessions. Price includes museum admission.

## youth basketball

### ❖ youth basketball leagues

#### **Co-Ed Leagues – Tuesdays/Thursdays**

Ages 3-4: 4-4:45 pm | Grades K-1: 5-6 pm  
Dec 3-Dec 19 | Jan 7-Jan 30 | Feb 4-Feb 27  
\$130 (members) \$160 (non-members)

#### **Boys Leagues – Mondays 5-6 pm**

Dec 2-Dec 16 | Jan 6-Jan 27 | Feb 3-Feb 24  
\$70 (members) \$90 (non-members)

#### **Girls Leagues – Wednesdays 5-6 pm**

Dec 4-Dec 18 | Jan 8-Jan 22 | Feb 5-Feb 19  
\$70 (members) \$90 (non-members)

Youth basketball helps kids become better basketball players by introducing the game through a progressive age-specific leveled program. Players are taught fundamental basketball skills such as passing, dribbling, shooting, footwork, and defense. Each class will follow a model of 30-minutes of instruction followed by a modified game each class! Players will receive a team t-shirt!

### ❖ one day skill clinics

**Grades 1-2 Jan 19 | Feb 26 5-6 pm**  
\$30 (members) \$40 (non-members)

Come work with COMO Athletic Director and Professional Skills Trainer TJ Faeth and his staff to develop the essential fundamental skills needed in basketball. These one hour clinics are designed to incorporate fun and skill building to develop players to reach their goals and instill confidence.

### ❖ private basketball training

Email [t.faeth@thecomo.org](mailto:t.faeth@thecomo.org) for pricing and availability.

Train with Coach TJ Faeth or Coach Janessa Perry one on one or in small groups. All skill levels welcome.

## karate

**Dragons [Ages 4-6] Tues 4:30-5 pm | \$40**

**Ninjas [Ages 5-7] Tues 5-5:30 pm | \$40**

**Youth Beginner [Ages 7-10] Thurs 4:30 – 5 pm | \$40**

**Youth Advanced [Ages 8-16] Thurs 5 – 5:45 pm | \$50**

\*COMO Membership required. Program runs all year.

All classes are taught by a highly qualified adult 5th degree Black Belt, Renshi Scott Rathburn, who began the program over 25 years ago! In addition to a quality program families can be sure that students will be attending one of the most affordable karate schools in the area with NO annual contract. Karate at the COMO is a year-round program in which students learn, practice, and hone their skills while also teaching lessons in respect, focus, and self-confidence.

## archery

New!

### ❖ archery with black bear sports

**Saturdays 9-10 am | 10:15-11:15 am (Ages 7+)**

Dec 7 – Jan 18 | Jan 14 – Feb 19

\$105 (members) \$135 (non-members)

This class focuses on creating and fostering responsibility and safe behaviors with respect to shooting sports. Students learn range and equipment safety, while developing skills to help them become accurate archers. Archery helps students refine patience and self-discipline through new skills development and independent work in a supportive environment. Classes are scheduled in a session format, in 6-week blocks, and are structured for students over 7 years old. Families and friends are encouraged to participate together! \*No class on 12/28\*

## youth makerspace

### ❖ masterpiece makers

**Wednesdays 4-5:15 pm (Grades 2-5)**

Jan 8 – Feb 5 | Feb 19 – Mar 19

\$150 (members) \$180 (non-members)

Your child will enjoy this fun and innovative 5-week art class that surveys the infinite boundaries of visual expression. Designed to be an interactive art history class for kids, we will create pieces inspired by the masters! Masterpiece Makers will introduce skills and techniques that go beyond basic art instruction for artists at any level. Materials included. Should the COMO need to cancel a class, a makeup class will be held the week after the last scheduled class during the regular class time.

### ❖ tinkering tuesdays

**Tuesdays 4-5:15 pm (Grades K-2)**

Jan 14 – Feb 19 \$105 (members) \$135 (non-members)

Tinkering Tuesdays gets children in grades K-2 excited about the world of STEAM! Students will engage in hands-on projects that spur innovation and promote creative problem-solving. Should the COMO need to cancel a class, a make-up class will be held on the week after the last scheduled class at the regularly scheduled class time.

### ❖ maker club

**Mondays 4-5:15 pm (Grades 3-5)**

Jan 13 – March 3 \$180 (members) \$210 (non-members)

Join the COMO Maker Club for access to the COMO Makerspace and equipment. The COMO Makerspace is a space where students can gather to tinker, create, explore and discover in a collaborative and safe space. Dependent upon the project designs, material fees may apply for larger projects. Should the COMO need to cancel a class, a make-up class will be held on the week after the last scheduled class at the regularly scheduled class time.