

*Your Guide to
Schoharie County*





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Photo Credit: Caleb Jacobus





Our own Chelsea McGrath was so happy to come home to Schoharie, she's now joined our office in order to pass along the welcome! Let us bring you home to Schoharie.

Schoharie County is a proud, close-knit community nestled in the Mohawk Valley that welcomes people from all over. The county was created in 1795 with only six towns. Now Schoharie County has grown to 16 towns, offering a scenic countryside with stunning views as well as multiple shopping districts and several annual festivals.

In this guidebook you will learn more of what Schoharie County has to offer and discover lots of family-fun activities and adventures around the county. Find answers to questions like:

What's happening in Schoharie through the year? During the year you will find many events and festivities that include parades, music, shopping, and activities that people of all ages will enjoy. Chapter one covers six annual festivals, from the Sunshine Fair in the village of Schoharie to Cobleskill's Holiday Celebration.

What outdoor activities are available? From fishing to swimming, hiking to hunting, golfing to biking, Schoharie County has something for everyone. Chapter one covers local parks and the activities they offer.

Where can I go shopping? Multiple towns in Schoharie County have active Main Street shopping areas. Walk through the shops or stop in a café and unwind while you enjoy a delicious meal. Drive to a local farm stand to buy fresh vegetables and fruit. Learn more about local businesses in chapter one.

What is the school system like? No matter where you choose to live in Schoharie, your children will never be too far from excellent education. In fact, Schoharie County's 4-year graduation rate is higher than New York State's! Learn more about our school districts in chapter two.

What career opportunities are there? One of the largest employers in the area is SUNY College of Agriculture and Technology at Cobleskill. Chapter two reviews employers as well as the stats for starting your own business.

What's the cost of living? Schoharie County's overall cost of living is 89.2, much lower than New York State's average. Learn more about how Schoharie's cost of living compares category by category in chapter three.

If you are ready to hit that "reset button" and head out somewhere new, come visit Schoharie!



CHAPTER 1

Activities & Adventures

Schoharie County has an abundance of fun things to do. From shopping on Main Street during a crowded festival to hiking alone on a mountain peak, there's something for everyone. Let's explore Schoharie County together, from the top of Vroman's Nose to the depths of Howe Caverns.



Shopping & Dining

Walk around the Main Streets of Cobleskill, Middleburgh, Schoharie, or Sharon Springs, and you'll find an array of fantastic shopping choices. Drive to any of our numerous farm stands to find even more. From [mercantile](#) to [menagerie](#), Schoharie County has a wide array of merchandise. Artists, farmers, producers, and retailers abound – so you can find all the perfect gifts, knick-knacks, and necessities wherever you go!

Village of Cobleskill

Parking: Find free 2-hour street parking in Cobleskill or take advantage of the parking lot at the corner of Union and East Main.

Shops: On Main Street you'll find Catnap Books, a secondhand bookshop with a great selection and friendly atmosphere. There's even a local section on Schoharie County history as well as books on the Adirondacks. Across the street is Vijaya's Clothing Boutique with custom designed clothing. Explore the area further to find gift shops, liquor stores, and even a furniture store. Just outside of town, you'll find [Grapevine Farms](#), an 1850's farmhouse with shopping, bistro, bakery, and wine cellar.


Dining: Grapevine Farms is not the only place to grab a bite – there are plenty of places to eat on Main Street. Find Mexican, Italian, a classic bar and grill, and even a bakery.

Village of Middleburgh

Parking: Middleburgh offers metered on-street parking, as well as a free parking lot off of Baker Ave. behind the library. In December, the parking meters on Main Street are traditionally covered to celebrate the holiday season with free parking.

Shops: There are a variety of gift shops on Main Street, including books, music, and even a pet shop. Stop in at the florist or explore the thrift shop. At 308 Main Street you'll find Four Star Realty Group – stop in and say hi!

Dining: On Main Street, you'll find a variety of places to eat, including Chinese, pizza, and an Italian grill. Stop at Stewart's for an ice cream!



We're always happy to recommend a picnic spot, or where to grab some fresh fruits & veggies! After all, food's always better when it's local.

Village of Schoharie

Parking: Schoharie offers free 2-hour on-street parking on Main Street during the day.

Shops: On Main Street you will find fine gifts, antiques, jewelry and more. [Old Rustic Crow](#) offers local hand-made decorations and art pieces. For outdoor lovers there is an [outdoor sports](#) store that sells fishing, hunting and trapping supplies.

Dining: On Main Street, stop in El Taco Shack for Mexican cuisine, or one of the cafés for traditional rural fare. The Your Way Café is a local favorite for breakfast. Just outside of the village on Route 30A, [The Apple Barrel](#) is a great destination that features an award-winning café and a shop where you can get home décor, gifts and more.

Village of Sharon Springs

Parking: Sharon Springs has free on-street parking on Main Street.

Shops: Main Street's shops offer local gourmet food, gifts and more. At [McGillycuddy's](#) you can buy handmade goat milk soap and all natural bath products, and at [Sharon Sprigs](#), dried floral arrangements.

Dining: Have lunch at the Black Cat Café, or head to 204 Main Bar & Bistro for a weekend dinner out.

FARMS AND FARM STANDS

Schoharie County was the "Breadbasket of the American Revolution," feeding Washington's army. Today 94% of the land is still farm or forest, providing plenty of opportunities for purchasing food grown or raised locally.

[Buck Hill Farm](#) in the Town of Jefferson not only produces maple syrup and other specialty maple products, it offers a farm-to-table breakfast on the weekends year round. The thick-cut bacon is delicious and the pancakes enormous!

Find this and other local farms at [VisitSchoharieCounty.com](#)



Places of Interest

If you like to explore both past and present, Schoharie County has many places of interests throughout the County. From natural wonders to historical sites, there is plenty to learn and see.

PARKS, HIKING TRAILS & OTHER NATURAL SITES

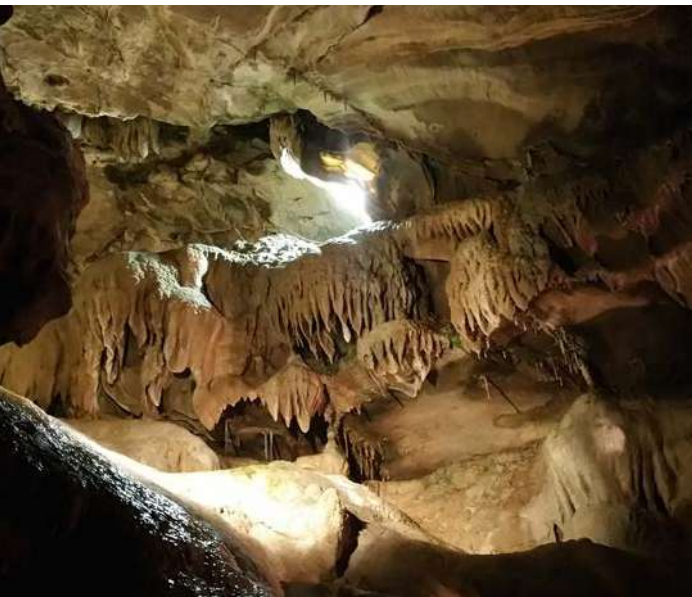
If you're a fan of outdoor adventure, you'll find a lot to love all over Schoharie. Hikers, explorers, and hunters alike can find plenty of natural beauty to take in.

Cotton Hill and Dutch Settlement State Forests: Open year-round with no entry fee, these neighboring state parks offer over 1500 acres in which to enjoy the outdoors. [The Long Path](#), an 84-mile hiking trail from New York City to Thatcher State Park in Albany County, runs through both of these properties. Camping is allowed, though campsites must be at least 150 ft away from roads, trails, and bodies of water. Camping for longer than three nights or in groups of ten or more requires a permit. Hunting and trapping are also allowed during appropriate seasons, and in the winter there are 6.2 miles of snowmobile trails to explore. The Dutch Settlement Forest has two free parking lots: The Brooky Hollow parking lot off Brooky Hollow Road towards the south-west and the Treadlemire parking lot off Treadlemire Hill Road to the north-west.

Eagle Trail: The Schoharie Eagle Trail is an accessible bird watching trail that is designed to educate and entertain visitors. While on the trail you will see the beauty of Schoharie County and possibly an eagle or two. The Eagle Trail is located in Cobleskill, NY at 182 Barnerville Road with free parking areas along the creek.

Lily Park: This village-owned park near Schoharie, NY has a short 0.3 mile loop trail that can easily be completed in 6 minutes. When the lilies are in full bloom the second Saturday in July, the park hosts its Annual Lily Fest.

Mine Kill State Park: Located in North Bleinheim at 161 Minekill Road, [Mine Kill State Park](#) is open year-round from dusk to dawn and offers free parking (courtesy of



the New York Power Authority). The park has an Olympic-size swimming pool, diving area, wading pool, and boat launch as well as 8 miles of trails. In the summer, free swimming lessons are available and mountain biking is allowed as well as hiking. During the winter there is snowmobiling, ice skating and more. Hunting is allowed by permit only. A secondary parking area ¼ mile south of the main entrance offers easy access to viewing platforms for [Mine Kill Falls](#) as well as entry to the [Long Path](#).

Secret Caverns: Take a guided tour through these natural underground passageways for 45 minutes to an hour. At the end of the tour is a 100 ft underground waterfall! Temperatures in the caverns remain around 50° year-round, so a light jacket is recommended. Kids under 6 are free, but strollers are not permitted. The entrance at 671 Caverns Rd in Cobleskill is ticketed and consists of 103 stairs.

Schoharie Creek Preserve: On the northern boundary of the Schoharie Creek is a loop trail that features waterfalls along Wiley Creek. The trail offers beautiful views of both creeks, and people often fish. The 1.3 mile trail can be steep but you will enjoy hiking and bird watching along the way. The loop trail is open year-round and you can find parking at the preserve parking lot on Butler Road in Esperance, New York.

Howe Caverns: Take a Cave Tour at [Howe Caverns](#) and descend 156 feet below the earth's surface where you will go through cavernous galleries, limestone corridors and more. Stop by the café afterward for an afternoon treat or visit the gift shop to find locally made jewelry and other souvenirs. Howe Caverns is located at 255 Discover Drive in Howe Caves, New York.

Vroman's Nose: This distinctively shaped mountain has a spectacular view of Schoharie Valley from its flat top. The 1.5 mile loop trail is generally considered an easy hike and kid friendly. Dogs are welcome on a leash. This popular hike usually takes around 50 minutes to complete, during which time you will likely meet other hikers. The trailhead can be found off Mill Valley Road in Middleburgh, with a large grassy parking area. No camping allowed.



HISTORIC PLACES

1743 Palantine House Museum: Located at 102 Warner Hill Rd in the Village of Schoharie, this house is the oldest existing building in the county. It was originally built as a Lutheran parsonage, and is now a living history museum open weekends in the summer.

Blenheim Covered Bridge: The Old Blenheim Covered Bridge opened in 1855 for the use of local farmers, and became a pedestrian-only bridge in 1933. On August 28, 2011, Tropical Storm Irene destroyed the old bridge. A replica was built as a symbol of the county's resilience, and still stands just off Route 30 in North Blenheim as a beloved landmark.

Old Stone Fort Museum Complex: Run by the Schoharie County Historical Society, the Old Stone Fort Museum Complex includes seven historic and exhibit buildings on 25 acres. Open May through October, the first floor of the fort displays collections and exhibits of local history, while the second-floor gallery and other buildings are restored and maintained as they were. There is also a research library and picnic facilities.



Four Star Realty is a proud member of the Middleburgh Area Business Association (MABA), and we love Middleburgh's themed 4th Fridays, held the fourth Friday of the month May through September! If you want to come check out our home town's main street, there's no better time.

Festivals & Celebrations

In Schoharie County, you'll quickly notice the sense of pride and love everyone has for their community, and we make sure to show it every chance we get! Whether it's enjoying a summer concert in the park, or dashing into the holiday spirit with a blizzard of excitement at Miracle on Main Street Festival in Middleburgh – you'll discover what makes Schoharie so magical.



May – September

Fourth Fridays in Middleburgh – Every fourth Friday from May through September the Middleburgh Area Business Association holds a themed festival. Whether it's the Roaring 20s or Dr. Seuss, all the main street businesses can get in on the fun!

July & August

Arts in the Park in Cobleskill - Arts in the Park is an annual free concert series in Veterans' Memorial Centre Park in Cobleskill. Enjoy live music in the park Thursday evenings in the summer.



August

Schoharie County Sunshine Fair in Cobleskill - The Schoharie County Sunshine Fair is held each year at the Cobleskill Fairgrounds. This event is fun for the whole family. Watch tractor pulls, demolition derbies, harness racing, chainsaw sculpting, and more.

Labor Day Weekend

Annual Iroquois Festival in Howes Cave - The annual Iroquois Festival is held in Howes Cave and features Iroquois artists, dancers, storytellers and more.



Columbus Day Weekend

Fall Harvest Parade in Middleburgh - On the Saturday of Columbus Day weekend, the Village of Middleburgh holds a parade on Main Street. Food trucks and other vendors set up along the parade route.

December

Cobleskill Holiday Celebration in Cobleskill - The Village of Cobleskill celebrates on the first Saturday of December with a parade and tree lighting. Local businesses offer holiday specials, along with free snacks and activities.



Miracle on Main Street in Middleburgh - This holiday street festival in the Village of Middleburgh includes carriage and pony rides, visits with Santa, and the tree lighting. Local businesses are open late, and there are many activities and entertainments.



CHAPTER 2

A Great Place to Grow

Within any of Schoharie's diverse towns and communities, you'll find top-notch schools and varied job opportunities. We are a tight knit community where people are friendly and offer help when needed. Throughout the county our farm stands and shops offer beautiful views and a variety of locally made products.



At Four Star, we believe in growth and opportunity – that's why every member of our staff from secretary to owner can answer your real estate questions. We're proud to encourage continuing education in the industry.

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

There are 16 public school districts that serve the students of Schoharie County.

- [Berne Knox Westerlo](#)
- [Cairo-Durham](#)
- [Canajoharie](#)
- [Charlotte Valley](#)
- [Cobleskill-Richmondville](#)
- [Duanesburg](#)
- [Fonda-Fultonville](#)
- [Gilboa-Conesville](#)
- [Greenville](#)
- [Jefferson](#)
- [Middleburgh](#)
- [Roxbury](#)
- [Schoharie](#)
- [Sharon Springs](#)
- [Stamford](#)
- [Worcester](#)

Schoharie County's [4-year graduation rate is higher than New York State's](#).

Cobleskill-Richmondville High School in Cobleskill ranks in the top 10% of all schools in New York, with math proficiency in the top 5%¹. The district serves families in Cobleskill, Richmondville, and 13 other rural townships spanning more than 181 square miles in Schoharie. Cobleskill-Richmondville sponsors 22 interscholastic varsity teams for their students.

Schoharie County is also proud to be home to the [SUNY College of Agriculture and Technology at Cobleskill](#), a standout in integrating classroom education with strong field experiences. [Programs of study](#) include a variety of agricultural and animal science concentrations, communication and information technology, business administration, and more. Both bachelor's degrees and associate degrees are available, and 629 degrees were awarded in 2020².

¹ <https://www.publicschoolreview.com/cobleskill-richmondville-high-school-profile>

² <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/schoharie-county-ny#education>

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Major industries in Schoharie County include education, healthcare, and retail. Agriculture, forestry, and construction are also popular. Major employers include SUNY and the Cobleskill Regional Hospital³.

Start a Business - Schoharie County is also a great place for a start-up or business expansion. An outline of the many factors that identify the health, viability, and potential of the county is below. These insights about the people and infrastructure of Schoharie County will help you make the decision to start your business here in Schoharie County.

Population and Workforce: The total population of Schoharie County grew slightly from 2020 to 2021. From 2016-2020, 91% of the population age 25 or older had at least a high school diploma and 23.6% had a bachelor's degree or higher⁴.

	2020	2021	% Change
Schoharie County Residents	29,714	29,863	0.5%
K-12 Student Population	3,898	3,718	-4.8%

Residents by Age Group



Source: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/schohariecountyny>

	2020	2021
Workforce	14,800	14,500
Employment	13,800	13,900
Unemployment Rate	6.8%	4.5%

Source: <https://statistics.labor.ny.gov/laus.asp>

Industries: Residents of Schoharie County were employed in the following industries in 2019.

Industry	% of Schoharie Jobs
Educational Services	14.1%
Health Care & Social Assistance	12.4%
Retail Trade	12.3%
Construction	10.5%
Manufacturing	8.0%
Public Administration	6.6%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, & Hunting	3.5%
Other	32.6%

Source: https://datausa.io/profile/geo/schoharie-county-ny#_category_industries

³ https://datausa.io/profile/geo/schoharie-county-ny#tmap_ind_num_emp

⁴ <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/schohariecountyny>





CHAPTER 3

Affordability

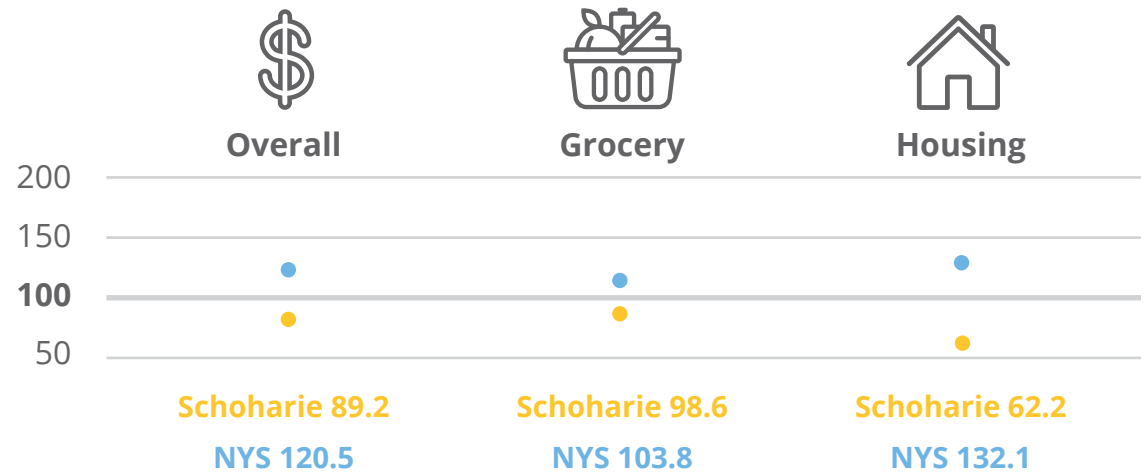
Schoharie County is one of the best places in New York to plant your roots. We're a land of rich soils, robust traditions, generations of pioneers, and active community to support your success. And it's a lifestyle that's affordable! The cost of living in Schoharie County is lower than that of New York State – lower even than the average for the entire United States.

Photo Credit: Deb Bechtold



We've helped resettle a lot of people from New York City, and we appreciate the lowered cost of living we have here. Take advantage of the extra spending money to treat yourself at the next street festival!

Cost of living statistics are based on a nation-wide average of 100. Numbers below 100 therefore indicate a lower cost of living than average while numbers above 100 indicate a higher cost of living. **Schoharie's overall cost of living ranks at 89.2⁵**. Whether it's healthcare, groceries, utilities, or other miscellaneous expenses, you can afford what you need and still have plenty left over for fun.



Source: https://www.bestplaces.net/cost_of_living/county/new_york/schoharie

Schoharie County possesses many beautiful homes and properties, many of which are available at extremely affordable rates. Compare our 2021 median residential sale price of \$169,000 to those in neighboring Albany (\$242,700), Schenectady (\$199,900), and Greene (\$270,000)⁶ to see how much sense it makes to shuffle off to Schoharie!

⁵https://www.bestplaces.net/cost_of_living/county/new_york/schoharie

⁶<https://www.tax.ny.gov/research/property/assess/sales/resmedian.htm>

Photo Credit: Deb Bechtold



Start Your Schoharie Adventure

One of the biggest things that makes a region feel like home is having a close-knit community. After all, isn't it great to know that your neighbors will lend a hand if needed, and you can do the same for them? Within Schoharie County, that feeling of camaraderie lives on in every city, town, and village! Our people are practical, hardworking, and have an innate sense of problem solving. We stick together through everything, and we do our best to make every new member to our county feel supported.

At Four Star Realty, we want to share our community in Schoharie County with you. We are a team of professionals who will make your dreams become a reality. We know the camaraderie here and are ready to find the right house, and welcome you home.

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