

JANUARY 2025

# Lake Chatuge

## LIVING



PG. 12

### THE PLEMMONS FAMILY AT PEACE AFTER PERSEVERING

Cover Photo by K. Boyer Photography

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# CHASING DREAMS AND IGNITING PASSIONS

## BUCKET LIST IDEAS FOR RETIREMENT



BY MEGAN EYRICH, EXPERT CONTRIBUTOR, IGNITE LIVING AT HIAWASSEE PARK

Life is full of possibilities, no matter where you are on your journey. It's never too late to dream, explore, or live life with joy and purpose. One of the most beautiful things we can do is create a bucket list - a collection of dreams and experiences to chase after. As C.S. Lewis said, "You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream." In this season of life, those dreams are more accessible than ever.

I want to invite you to think about the adventures you've always wanted to take, the places you've dreamed of visiting, or the hobbies you've always wanted to try. It's not about checking off boxes, it's about embracing the beauty of life and experiencing new things.

### Adventures Right Here Around Lake Chatuge

Living in this beautiful part of the world, near Lake Chatuge and nestled in the North Georgia mountains, offers countless ways to explore, connect with nature, and enjoy each day. Whether it's taking a quiet walk by the water or learning something new, there are endless opportunities to create memories that will last a lifetime.

**1. Nature's Wonders:** The mountains are just waiting to be explored. Whether you're looking for a peaceful nature walk or something more challenging, the trails around Lake Chatuge offer stunning views. Kayaking on the lake or simply spending time near the water can refresh your spirit, providing a sense of peace and renewal. Staying active outdoors is a wonderful way to keep your body moving, connect with God's creation, and find joy in the beauty around you.

**2. Discover New Things:** Have you ever wanted to try something new, like learning to paint, taking a cooking class, or even trying pottery? In Hiawassee, there are so many opportunities to explore new hobbies and passions. It's not just about the activity, it's about discovering something that brings joy to your heart and enriches your life. No matter your age, you are never too old to begin a new chapter. Doing so not only brings personal joy, but it can also inspire others, strengthening the community.

**3. Giving Back:** One of the most meaningful ways to spend your time is by helping others. Volunteering in the community or reaching out to someone who could use a friend gives life deeper meaning and purpose. As Ralph Waldo Emerson





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said, "The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate." Serving others connects us to our faith, to the love of God, and to our neighbors. The Bible teaches us to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:31). Sharing your time, talents, and care with others is a gift that brings fulfillment and will leave a lasting impact.

### Living Fully, Every Day

Life is more than just the big moments, it's in the small things, too. The conversations with friends, the laughter with family, and the quiet moments of reflection by the lake. These moments remind us of the richness of life and the power of community and faith.

Physical wellness is important, but it's just one part of the picture. It's about moving, laughing, and feeling alive. Join in a group activity, stretch your body, or take a walk in nature to stay connected. Don't forget to keep your mind and spirit engaged—read that book you've been meaning to start or join a Bible study. There's always room to grow in faith and purpose.

### Living with Purpose

Retirement is just one chapter, but your story is far from over. There are many ways to continue living with purpose. It's not about a list of things to do, it's about living for others, sharing your love, and growing in your faith. As Norman Vincent Peale said, "Live your life and forget your age."

As you think about your own bucket list, remember there are no limits to what you can do. No age is too old to set new goals, dream new dreams, or serve your community. The best is yet to come!



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