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**Gateway National Recreation Area, New York and New Jersey**

***Gateway Photography Contest: Tell a Story with a Picture***

Enter the Gateway Photography Contest held during the month of July. Pictures must be recent (with in the current year) and must tell some part of Gateway’s story relating to the park and its history.

**The Interpretive themes for Gateway are:**

* The Natural Wonders, Dynamics and Challenges of an Urban Estuary
* Two Centuries of National Defense
* Maritime Heritage
* Recreation and Education: Quality of Life for All Visitors

*Themes with explanation:*

*The Natural Wonders, Dynamics & Challenges of an Urban Estuary*

The natural resources of Gateway are remarkably diverse given their location in the nation’s most densely populated urban area. The mosaic of coastal habitats is a refuge for both rich and rare plant and animal life intrinsically governed by the rhythms, processes and cycles of nature, yet, continually shaped by people and the surrounding build environment. These resources provide unique and surprising opportunities for experiencing the wilderness of the natural world while within the nation’s largest metropolitan region, and a model for studying, managing and restoring urban ecosystems.

*Two Centuries of National Defense*

For over two hundred years, places in Gateway were critical to the defense of New York Harbor and played a significant role in the development of the military technologies and strategies used to protect our nation. The changing nature of our national defense reveals stories of triumph, struggle, and everyday life, as well as the contrast of innovation and obsolescence. Today the remaining fortifications, structures and historic landscapes are a visible reminder of the importance of preparedness and defense then and now.

*Maritime Heritage*

Since the days of European exploration and colonization, Sandy Hook has played an important role in facilitating navigation and commerce in and out of New York Harbor. Its maritime resources illustrate the evolution of navigational aids and coastal rescue, in part via the oldest lighthouse in the US, one of the original life-saving stations built by the federal government, historic United States Coast Guard structures, and a relatively safe natural harbor that has provided refuge to generations of mariners Dedicated and heroic individuals ensured that this beacon served to guide ships in all seasons under all conditions.

*Recreation & Education: Quality of Urban Life for All Visitors*

The human need for recreation and renewal has resulted in an evolving history of tradtional and innovative uses of the park’s lands and waters to improve the quality of urban life. Intrinsically connected to the diverse population of the New York metropolitan area, Gateway’s resources provide unique opportunities for outdoor recreation and rejuvenation in a densely populated and largely impacted metropolitan area. It is an outdoor laboratory for learning and discovery, where academic facts and knowledge can be observed in real settings. The park’s open spaces and wide horizons offer opportunities for source based recreation as well as contemplation and reflection.

*Contd.*

In addition to these main themes told by the park other themes and stories are possible, including:

* Birds, mammals, sea life, critters and botany of Gateway: Nature against the backdrop of New York City metro area
* Visitors enjoying and exploring Gateway, especially demonstrating cultural ethnic mix.
* Sustainable design, meteorology and geographic information with park context

Points will be scored by pictures that tell a story and are readily apparent to be taken at the park demonstrating one of the stories. The overall theme will be nature/people/ park images against the backdrop of New York/New Jersey metropolitan area.

We will receive submissions during July; winners will be announced at the end of August. There will be an exhibit at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge in September which will feature the winners and the top contenders.

So while all those full frame shots of a bird on the beach, a prickly pear cactus in bloom, are wonderful, more points will be scored by images that really show their context with in the park and in the vicinity of the metropolitan area.

The contest entries will be judged by NPS and professional photographers, there will be modest cash prizes awarded and the winners and the top contenders will be included in the exhibit. The panel will pick the top ten or twelve best images, and then we will have Crowd Source Voting by way of Facebook so the winners will be selected by popular vote.

**Contest Rules**

All photos submitted will enter the Public Domain (the state of belonging or being available to the public as a whole, and therefore not subject to copyright). Do not submit pictures that are copyrighted or which you wish to sell. No copyright images will be considered.

Each person may submit up to three (3) images for the contest.

Submission will be electronic; no paper, print images may be submitted or considered.

Submit images of at least 300 to 600 dpi by email during the month of July.

Please use this letter of transmission when you email your entry to Gateway\_photo\_contest@nps.gov

*Subject: Gateway Photo Contest Entry*

*Text: To Gateway National Recreation Area*

*Please accept the attached photo for entry into the Gateway Photo Contest. I understand that by entering this photo that it will enter the Public Domain, and may be used by Gateway National Recreation Area and the NPS in promoting its programs. No photos will be sold, but may be used by the park and the NPS.*

*Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_ Photo Title or Caption\_\_\_\_\_ Name & Address\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone number\_\_\_\_\_*

*Verify email\_\_\_\_\_*

*Signed (please enter your full name)\_\_\_\_\_*

We are looking for pictures that tell a story and are readily apparent to have been taken at Gateway or nearby, that demonstrate people, nature, park images against the backdrop of NY/NJ metropolitan area.

We are not looking for full frame shots depicting wildlife or botany that do not show the park context, nor are we looking for digitized extravagantly enhanced photos… please do not submit a picture of a horseshoe crab devouring the Empire State Building.

This is a competition-- all entries will be judged by a panel made up of NPS and artist/photography experts who will select the top contenders. These top images will be posted on Facebook and the winners will be selected by popular vote.

The contest will be open from July 1, through July 31, 2014 and entries will be accepted during that month only. Adjudication and popular voting will occur during the month of August and the winners will be announced at the end of the month. The winning images and top contenders will be displayed at an exhibit at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge during September.

Prizes: First prize, $100; second prize, $50, third prize, $25.

Please send in your fabulous pictures, and follow us on Facebook. We are looking to be blown away by your entries.