



Ranger-Led Programs

July 6 - 12, 2025

Location	Program	Sun 6	Mon 7	Tues 8	Wed 9	Thurs 10	Fri 11	Sat 12
Toms Cove Visitor Center	Aquarium Talk (30 minutes)  	1:00 pm	10:30 am	10:30 am			11:00 am	2:00 pm
Toms Cove Visitor Center	Assateague Detectives (30 minutes, ¼ mile) 	10:00 am			10:00 am		10:00 am	
Toms Cove Visitor Center	Birding with a Ranger (1 hour window) 		1:00 pm – 2:00pm			3:00 pm – 4:00 pm		
Toms Cove Visitor Center	Creature Feature (15-20 minutes)  	3:00 pm	2:30 pm	3:00 pm	2:30 pm	10:30 am	1:30 pm	12:00 pm
Toms Cove Visitor Center	Free as a Bird (1.5 hours, ½ mile)	8:00 am						
Toms Cove Visitor Center	Hello Horseshoe Crabs (1 hour window)  	1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	11:00 am – 12:00 pm	11:00 am – 12:00 pm	1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	11:30 am – 12:30 pm	
Toms Cove Visitor Center	History's Mysteries (15-20 minutes) 		12:30 pm	2:00 pm				3:00 pm
Naturalist Shack/Parking Lot #1	Hook, Line and Sinker (1.5 hours)			8:00 am				
Bayside Parking Lot #2	Kayak in the Cove 						9:30 am	
Bayside Parking Lot #2	Marine Explorers 							9:00 am
Turn Circle at Entrance	Pinchers of Power 					10:00 am		
Toms Cove Visitor Center	Plant Rant (15-20 minutes) 			12:30 pm			3:00 pm	1:00 pm
Toms Cove Visitor Center	Shifting Sands (15-30 minutes) 				3:30 pm			
Toms Cove Visitor Center	Story by the Sea (30 minutes)  	11:00 am			11:00 am	11:30 am		
Toms Cove Visitor Center	Under the Boardwalk (30 minutes, ¼ mile)		10:00 am					

Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult on all programs.



These programs are especially popular with children.



Wheelchair accessible programs.



Advanced registration required.



Program descriptions on back

Program Descriptions

Aquarium Talk - Shellfish, hermit crabs, fish and more! Get a peek at who is swimming around out there with you by joining a ranger who will let you in on the secret lives of these diverse creatures.

Assateague Detectives - Do you want to become a detective? Want to help rangers find out what kind of unusual activity is going on? Join us as we venture down the boardwalk looking for evidence left behind by animals that live here on Assateague.

Birding With a Ranger - See what birds the ranger is viewing off the Toms Cove Visitor Center deck. Come and go as you please anytime during the 1-hour window. Some binoculars and field guides will be available.

Creature Feature - Gather 'round the ranger and today's mystery "guest." Learn the life and lore of a special Assateague resident during this informal discussion.

Free as a Bird - Discover some of Assateague's most colorful residents on this walk designed for birders of all skill levels. A limited number of binoculars and bird guides are available.

Hello Horseshoe Crabs - Stop by the visitor center anytime in this 1-hour window for a "meet and greet" with the Horseshoe Crab! Learn, observe, and touch a few of Assateague's marine residents.

History's Mysteries - What's that building on the horizon? Why is the lighthouse so far inland? Come learn about the cultural history, Park legends, lore, local tales and more!

Hook, Line & Sinker - Program is limited to those 12 years and older. If sitting on the beach bores you, you might just get hooked on surf fishing. Designed for those with limited surf fishing experience, this program includes demonstrations of equipment, bait and casting techniques. Equipment is provided, however; actual practice time depends on group size.

Kayak in the Cove - Join us for a paddle in Toms Cove to discover what's in the cove. Be ready to get wet! Program is limited to those 13 years and older. Children must be 16 or older to paddle on a trip without a parent or guardian. One person per boat. All equipment is provided. Wear clothing and shoes (no flip-flops) for wading. **Note: Reservations must be made in person at the Toms Cove Visitor Center. There is a \$20.00 per person fee, payment due upon reservation by CARD ONLY via Pay.gov (non-refundable except for weather cancellations).**

Marine Explorers - Join a ranger and investigate the creatures found in and around Toms Cove. Expect to get wet! **A snug pair of wading shoes is required, no flip-flops.**

Pinchers of Power - Come learn about the feisty and tasty blue crab by watching its powerful pinchers latch on to your bait! Equipment is provided. This program is catch and release. Sunscreen and bug spray are advised. Parking is limited. Bicycling to program is encouraged. Meets at the bridge before the Refuge entrance.

Plant Rant - "Lettuce" dig up the dirt on plants to unearth their roots and blossoming potential!

Shifting Sands - The sands of Assateague are on the move! Learn how and why it shifts, and what that means for your next beach visit.

Story by the Sea - You're never too old for a story by the sea. Come learn about an animal that calls Assateague home. An activity or craft related to the story will follow.

Under the Boardwalk - What's in bloom? Who made those tracks? Why are the crabs waving at me? You never know what you'll see under the boardwalk!

The National Park Service assists the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in interpretation and recreation management, but only in the Toms Cove area of the Virginia portion of the island. The Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge provides many other activities throughout the rest of the refuge. Contact them at 757-336-6122 for program details.