



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Fire Island National Seashore 120 Laurel Street
Patchogue, NY 11772

631 687-4750 phone
631 289-4898 fax

Fire Island National Seashore News Release

Release date: Immediate

Contact(s): Paula Valentine

Phone number: 631- 687- 4759

Date: September 21, 2009

Release code: 09- 19

National Park Service Plans a Day of Celebration and Service on September 26

“America’s Best Idea” to be celebrated at Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Centers

Patchogue, New York— On Saturday, September 26, national parks across the country are hosting special events and activities to celebrate America’s Best Idea—a system of national parks. The National Park Service (NPS) and the National Park Foundation have provided each NPS area with snippets of Ken Burns’ new documentary, *The National Parks: America’s Best Idea*, which premieres on PBS on Sunday, September 27. Fire Island National Seashore will show this 45-minute program at three of its visitor centers (Fire Island Lighthouse, Sailors Haven, and Fire Island Wilderness), and offer additional programs and tours throughout the day on Saturday, September 26.

“I’m surprised by how many people on Long Island don’t realize they have national parks in their own back yards,” stated Superintendent Chris Soller. “Fire Island National Seashore is truly a special place,” he continued, “and if you haven’t discovered what a jewel it is, please join us for a late season tour and catch a sneak preview of the latest Ken Burns film.”

At the Fire Island Lighthouse, the “America’s Best Idea” video clips will be shown from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., with a special “First Bloom” kick-off program at 2 p.m.

At Sailors Haven, a ranger-guided Sunken Forest Walk is at 11 a.m., followed by showings of the “America’s Best Idea” video clips at noon, 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.

At the Wilderness Visitor Center, the “America’s Best Idea” video clips will be shown at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., noon, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. A special Junior Ranger program, “Creating Your Own National Park,” will be offered at 2 p.m. for kids ages 8 – 12. Reservations are required for the Junior Ranger program (631- 281- 3010).

These programs are just a few among many occurring in the national parks across the country on September 26, which is also National Public Lands Day.

(more)

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

The nationwide program is cosponsored by the National Park Foundation (www.nationalparks.org), the National Park Service's Congressionally- chartered philanthropic partner. See www.nps.gov/September26 for more information.

For more information about Fire Island National Seashore, visit the park's home page at www.nps.gov/fiis. For more information about these programs, contact Irene Rosen at 631- 687- 4765.

###

September 26, 2009
Fire Island National Seashore

Three of Fire Island National Seashore's visitor contact stations will share a 45 minute preview of highlights from Ken Burns' new series, "**National Parks: America's Best Idea.**"

Fire Island Lighthouse

Park at Robert Moses State Park (*fee for parking*). Take a tour of the majestic Fire Island Lighthouse from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

From 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., join Girl Scout Troops 2158 and 2147 as they kick off their one-year "**First Bloom**" grant program to teach a core team of special needs students about conservation, native plants, and cultural landscapes in national parks; demonstration and hands-on activity for kids of all ages starts at 2:00 p.m. "**America's Best Idea**" previews throughout the day inside the Keepers Quarters museum from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Sailors Haven

Take the ferry from Sayville at 10:30 a.m. (*fee for parking and ferry*). Catch a ranger-guided **Sunken Forest Tour** at 11:00 a.m. "**America's Best Idea**" previews at noon, 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. Last ferry returns to Sayville at 3:00 p.m.

Wilderness Visitor Center

Park at Smith Point County Park (*fee for parking*). Sign up in advance for the **Junior Ranger Program, "Creating Your Own National Park,"** for kids ages 8-12, at 2:00 p.m. "**America's Best Idea**" previews at 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., noon, 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. 631-281-3010.

Ken Burns' latest series, "The National Parks: America's Best Idea," premieres Sunday, September 27, 2009 on PBS. Check your local PBS station for details.