



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

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## Fire Island National Seashore News Release

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### **National Park Week Activities at Fire Island National Seashore April 17- 25 National Junior Ranger Day Workshop on Saturday, April 24 at Fire Island Lighthouse Grand Opening and Art Show at Patchogue Ferry Terminal on April 25**

*Patchogue, New York* Fire Island National Seashore will mark National Park Week 2010 with a “March for Parks” hike and other walks, firsthand stories of an actual lighthouse keeper and his wife, celebrations of Earth Day, the park’s biennial science conference, a special National Junior Ranger Day workshop, and the opening of a new facility. “We’re offering a wide range of activities during this year’s National Park Week celebration,” said Superintendent Chris Soller, “which reflects the diversity of resources and recreational and educational opportunities that the Seashore provides.” National Park Week, which runs from April 17 through April 25, is celebrated nationwide in many of the 392 units of the National Park System.

“March for Parks” is an event that has been held annually across the country as an initiative to celebrate and conserve local, state, regional and national parks. Fire Island’s program will be held at the Fire Island Lighthouse on Saturday, April 17. The **Historic Area Lighthouse Trek** begins at Robert Moses State Park Field 5 at 8:00 a.m. The two- hour, 2- mile program includes a hike to the site of the first Fire Island State Park, established in 1908 on the grounds of the historic Surf Hotel, just east of the Fire Island Light Station. The hike ends at the Fire Island Lighthouse, now a part of Fire Island National Seashore. At 11:00 a.m., there’s “**Tea in the Lighthouse Keepers Quarters**” followed by “**The Old Lamplighter**,” at 1:00 p.m., with a former Fire Island Lighthouse keeper and his wife. Reservations are required. Program fees (\$15/person for each morning programs), collected by the Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society, help support the operation of the site and include a commemorative item for each program. For more information, contact the Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society at 631- 661- 4876.

Additional ranger- guided walks and programs during National Park Week focus on Earth Day this year. At the Wilderness Visitor Center, an astronomy program is planned for Friday evening, April 16 at 7:00 p.m., and a Seaside Stories and Crafts activity is offered on Saturday, April 17, at 2:00 p.m. A ranger- guided 3- mile hike into the Fire Island Wilderness is offered on Sunday, April 18 at 9:00 a.m. Each of these programs is free. Park at Smith Point County Park and meet at the Wilderness Visitor Center. Call 631- 281- 3010 for more information about these activities.

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Fire Island National Seashore's **biennial science conference** is held during National Park Week this year, on April 21 and 22. This reflects another aspect of our country's national parks: wise management of park resources based on sound science. More information is available at [www.nps.gov/fiis/scienceconference.htm](http://www.nps.gov/fiis/scienceconference.htm). Registration is required by April 12.

### **National Junior Ranger Day**

On **Saturday, April 24**, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., the park celebrates National Park Week activities with a special National Junior Ranger Day workshop on the grounds of the Fire Island Lighthouse. Children will learn to make seaside crafts, and a park biologist will demonstrate scientific sampling techniques. Special activities include "Discovering the Ocean," offered at noon; "Basic Nature Photography" at 1:00 p.m.; and "Animal Tracking" at 2:00 p.m. By participating in at least two of these ranger-led programs, children will earn their own National Junior Ranger Day patch. Families and kids of all ages are welcome to join the day's activities. For more information about these programs, contact Fire Island National Seashore's Interpretation Office at 631- 687- 4765.

National Junior Ranger Day is celebrated nationwide as a part of National Park Week. Participating in the day's activities allows children and their families to explore and learn about how the National Park Service protects parks, and how they can help, too. More information is available at [www.nps.gov/npweek](http://www.nps.gov/npweek).

### **Patchogue Ferry Terminal opening**

On **Sunday, April 25**, the final day of National Park Week, Fire Island National Seashore unveils its new Patchogue Ferry Terminal at 12:30 p.m., followed by the opening reception of Friends of Fire Island National Seashore's first art show, "The Essence of Fire Island," from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. The public is invited to attend both programs.

To learn more about Fire Island National Seashore, visit the park's web site at [www.nps.gov/fiis](http://www.nps.gov/fiis).

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