

# Fire Island

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Fire Island National Seashore  
Long Island, New York



## Visitor Programs and Events—December 2014

### Highlighting Otis Pike Fire Island High Dune Wilderness



Through the year we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Fire Island National Seashore, and on December 23 we have cause for another celebration—the 34th anniversary of the establishment of the Otis Pike Fire Island High Dune Wilderness. The 1,380 acre parcel is New York State's only federally designated wilderness and it's just an hour from New York City. The area's dunes, swale and marshes are important habitat for barrier island plants and wildlife, and yours to experience and enjoy. Join a guided tour or explore on your own; stop by the Wilderness Visitor Center or visit [www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/fireislandwilderness.htm](http://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/fireislandwilderness.htm)

#### Wilderness Visitor Center

Call for information:

631-281-3010

Free parking is available at  
Smith Point County Park.

#### Junior Ranger Night Sky Explorer

Saturday, December 20

4:30 pm–6:30 pm

Discover the stars and constellations above Fire Island and the value of dark night skies in nature. For kids ages 8 to 12 and their care-givers.

Reservations are required. For more information and to register, call 631-687-4780 (weekdays) or 631-281-3010 (weekends).

#### Winter Solstice Wilderness Walk

Sunday, December 21

1 pm–2:30 pm

Explore the winter shore and the wonders of the chilly season on this 1.5-mile roundtrip walk in the Fire Island Wilderness. Dress for the weather and for walking on sand.

#### New Year's Day Beach to Breach Hike

Thursday, January 1

10 am–1 pm

Celebrate the New Year on Fire Island. Discover the stark beauty of the winter beach during this invigorating 3-mile roundtrip hike to the breach at Old Inlet. Dress for the weather and for walking on sand. Bring a snack and binoculars if you have them.



## Fire Island Lighthouse

Call for reservations and information: 631-661-4876  
Parking is available at Robert Moses State Park, Field #5.

### Tower Tours

December 1–14

Weekdays, 1 pm–3 pm

Weekends, 10 am–3 pm

December 15–31

Weekdays, As Staff Available

Weekends, Noon–3 pm

42" Height Requirement. Fee.

### 12<sup>th</sup> Reenactment of the Flying Santa

Saturday, December 13

11:30 am–12:30 pm

Back in 1953, Pilot Snow (a.k.a. "Flying Santa"), flew his plane past the Fire Island Lighthouse leaving a package of holiday gifts for the Lighthouse Keeper

and his family. Relive this historic event with us. A special guest in a red suite will be expected. Arrive early and bring your camera!

### Snow Birds Walk

Sunday, December 14

10 am–11:30 am

Meet at Field #5

Meet a park ranger at Robert Moses Field #5 for this 2-mile bird walk along boardwalk, bay shoreline, and ocean beach. Join the search for the waterfowl, songbirds, and birds of prey that spend the winter on Fire Island, and in surrounding waters. Bring binoculars if you have them.

### Evening Tower Tour

Sunday, December 21

4 pm–5:30 pm

Reservations Required. Fee.

Experience the sunset and view the night sky from the top of the Lighthouse on the first day of winter. Bring a flashlight for your walk back to the parking field. Sunset is at 4:28 pm.



### New Year's Day Hike and Lighthouse Tower Tour

Thursday, January 1

10 am–11 am

Meet at Field #5

Reservations Required.

Join the Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society for a walk around the Seashore's western end. Experience the dynamic beach and explore how wildlife and plants survive the Fire Island winter. Afterwards, climb the Lighthouse Tower at the regular fee. Bring binoculars if you have them.



## Fire Island National Seashore Facilities—December 2014

Park Headquarters in Patchogue: 631-687-4750

Open all year, Monday–Friday, 9 am–4 pm (Closed on federal holidays)

Fire Island Lighthouse: 631-661-4876

Open December 1–14, Daily: 10 am–4 pm;

December 15–31, Weekdays: 10 am–4 pm; Weekends: Noon–4 pm

Sailors Haven and Watch Hill Facilities

Closed until May 2015.

Watch Hill Campground: Reservations Required: visit [www.watchhillfi.com](http://www.watchhillfi.com) for May–October 2015.

Wilderness Visitor Center: 631-281-3010

Wednesdays–Sundays 9 am–4 pm

William Floyd Estate: 631-399-2030

Closed until May 2015, but watch for special outdoor programs January–April.

Patchogue-Watch Hill Ferry Terminal

Closed until May 2015, but watch for special programs!

Backcountry Camping

Reservations Required: visit [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)

Access to east and west zones are from Watch Hill only while breach at Old Inlet is open. There is no access from the Wilderness Visitor Center at this time.



For information and updates:

[twitter.com/FireIslandNPS](https://twitter.com/FireIslandNPS),  
[facebook.com/FireIslandNPS](https://facebook.com/FireIslandNPS),  
[www.nps.gov/fiis](http://www.nps.gov/fiis) or email:  
[fiis\\_information@nps.gov](mailto:fiis_information@nps.gov)