Gateway

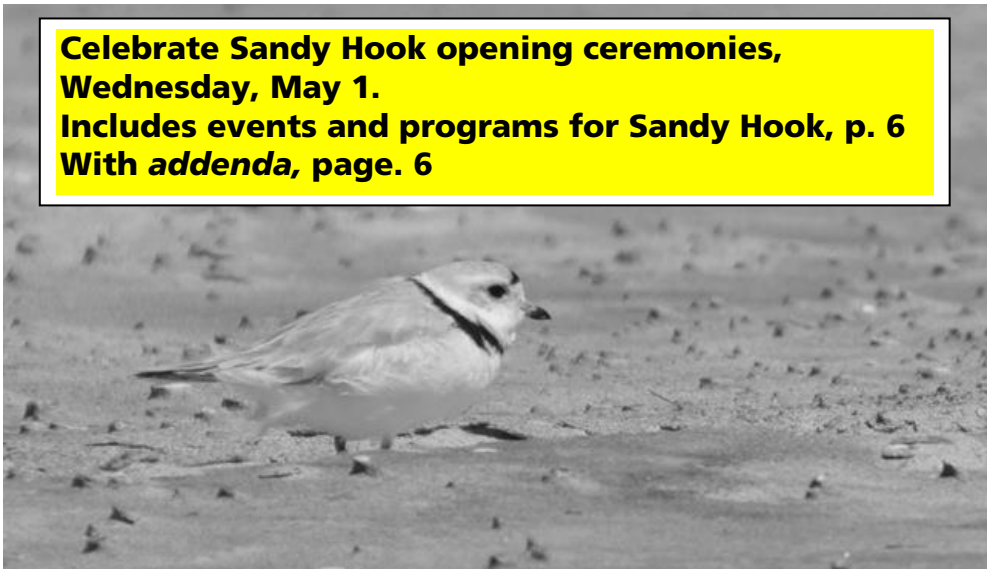
National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior

Gateway National Recreation Area
New Jersey / New York

Visitor Programs and Events – Spring 2013 *rev.*

New York Sites *(Jamaica Bay, Staten Island) and Sandy Hook*

Celebrate Sandy Hook opening ceremonies, Wednesday, May 1.
Includes events and programs for Sandy Hook, p. 6
With *addenda*, page. 6



Like returning migrants, such as the piping plover, Gateway is coming back!

RECENT UPDATES

Hurricane Sandy Relief Funding

Congress passed a $50 billion dollar hurricane relief package in January which the President signed into law on January 29, 2013. The National Park Service (NPS) was included in this bill for $348 million dollars, with $160 million targeted for Gateway National Recreation Area. These funds will be used to repair the damages sustained by Hurricane Sandy. Park staff is working with a team of NPS managers from our Regional Office and Denver Service Center to prepare and execute contracts for much of the work that needs to be done. We have an aggressive plan in place in order to reopen most areas of the park by Memorial Day weekend!

Sequestration

Congress passed a continuing resolution funding the federal government through March 27, 2013. It also established an earlier deadline of March 1, 2013 that says if a budget resolution has not passed, then $1.2 Trillion will be sequestered (i.e. it will be cut) from the federal budget. Both parties in Congress are opposed to this sequestration, and it is meant to serve as a deterrent to the budget stalemate in Washington. The President and Congress are working to try to avoid sequestration, but until that happens, it is a reality we will have to prepare for.

If sequestration were to be enacted, the hit to Gateway will be greater than $1.24M. The park has submitted a proposal to the Regional Director outlining the manner in which we are prepared to deal with this cut to our budget. It is our intention to deal with this cut by not filling a number of vacant positions, reducing the period of time that seasonal staff will be working and improving operational efficiencies. This will help, but it will not be enough. We will have to make difficult decisions and tighten our belts to see our way through this unprecedented fiscal challenge. It goes without saying that these cuts will have a major impact on our operations, but we will work together and remain committed to the mission of Gateway NRA.

Summer 2013

The park plans to reopen as many areas of the park that are safe and ready for visitors.

Hurricane Sandy Before and After Photo Exhibit Continues

The exhibit compares large scale satellite images from before the hurricane and photos taken afterward by National Park Service (NPS) employees. Post-storm photos were taken by NPS employees as part of the recovery effort. The large format-almost two by three feet-reveals the storm's destruction in great detail. Some of the most dramatic images are aerial shots taken from helicopters used by the team to survey the park. The exhibit continues for the next several months in the Multi-Purpose Room at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, located at 100 Cross Bay Boulevard in Queens. The Visitor Center is open daily, free of charge, from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.

On our e-mailing list?

If you are not on our list and wish to be added to receive this publication and notices of special park events electronically, please send a message to: Charles_Markis@nps.gov, And put 'program guide' in subject heading line.

What's With The ♥?

Gateway's programs are wonderful ways to stimulate your mind and your senses, but did you know that many of them provide fantastic opportunities to get some exercise? Our hikes, service projects, and paddles are great ways to get your heart going, while you enjoy the natural beauty and historic treasures that surround you. Just look for the ♥ next to the program listing for programs that require walks of a mile or more, or moderate physical exertion, and let Gateway pump you up!

March

Star Gazing
Floyd Bennett Field
Community Garden
Brooklyn
Friday, March 15
7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Come gaze at the wonders of the night sky over Floyd Bennett Field with the Amateur Astronomers Association. Weather permitting; clear or partly clear skies. Dress for the weather. Telescopes will be provided.

"The Flying Irishman" – The Flight of Douglas "Wrong Way" Corrigan
Floyd Bennett Field
Brooklyn
Ryan Visitor Center
Sunday, March 17
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.
Join a park ranger for a presentation and discussion of one of the most colorful pilots in aviation history. Bus – Q35.

The Prepared Paddler
Floyd Bennett Field
Brooklyn
Ryan Visitor Center
Monday, March 18
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Interested in going paddling in Jamaica Bay? Get an overview of paddling best practices. Learn about the skills and equipment you will need, so you can plan your next trip. Space is limited; call 718/338 3799 to make a reservation.

Spring Peepers
Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Queens
Thursday, March 21
6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Celebrate the first full day of spring with the spring peeper chorus. Join a ranger to discover these tiny but fascinating tree frogs on a stroll to Big John's Pond. Evening will begin with a short indoor presentation. Bring a flashlight. Rain date, Sunday, March 24. Bus - Q 52/53.

Have a Hoot with a Ranger
Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Queens
Saturday, March 23
2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Junior Rangers are invited to an owl adventure. Learn about owls and their habitat through a hike and an owl pellet investigation. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable shoes. Bus – Q 52/53.

Jamaica Bay Origami
Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Queens
Sunday, March 24
2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Did you know that origami came from the Japanese words "Oru" meaning "to fold" and "Kami" meaning "paper"? Learn more about this relaxing art and create the animals found in and around Jamaica Bay. Bus – Q 52/53.

Woodcock Watch
Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Queens
Tuesday, March 26
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Wait and watch in the dusk for American woodcocks and their amazing flying tricks. These birds, also known as timberdoodles, mudbats or bogsuckers, put on a spring show that's not to be missed! Program will begin with a brief indoor presentation. Bring a flashlight. Rain date, Saturday, March 30. Bus – Q 52/53.

Family Tours of Fort Tompkins
Fort Wadsworth
Staten Island
Wednesday, March 27
10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. and
2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Families join us during spring recess for a tour of Fort Tompkins. Meet at the Fort Wadsworth Overlook. Bring you cameras and dress for the weather. Bus – S51/81.

Moon Shine
Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Queens
Wednesday, March 27
7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Enjoy the night as a ranger guides you along the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge trail on a full moon night. Please wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. You are welcome to bring a flashlight. Rain date, Thursday, March 28. Bus – Q 52/53.

Spring Surprises ♥
Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Queens
Thursday, March 28
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
On this family-friendly nature walk, we will seek out some springtime surprises, including a plant that has been used as makeup, flowers that have gone to war, and birds of many kinds. We'll have binoculars available to borrow, please bring your own if you have them. Bus – Q 52/53. (1 mile)

Lantern Tour of Fort Wadsworth
Fort Wadsworth
Staten Island
Thursday, March 28
7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Explore the historic sites of the fort by night, and discover why they are a part of America's national park system. Bring a flashlight. Bus – S51/81.

NYC Audubon Early Spring Bird Walk
Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge,
Queens
Saturday, March 30
10 a.m. – 1p.m.
Meet at the Jamaica Bay Refuge visitor center at 10am for a hike around the ponds and uplands to look for the first birds of spring. We can expect to see ospreys, oystercatchers, ibis, great egrets, laughing gulls, and phoebes to name a few. Leader: Don Riepe. To reserve call (917) 371-8577; e-mail: donriepe@gmail. Bus – Q 52/53.

Creepy Crawlies
Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Queens
Saturday, March 30
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
The itsy bitsy spider is fun to learn about, and the insects are too! Hear all about creepy crawlies during this interactive family-friendly program. Bus – Q 52/53.

Explore the Back Woods at Fort Tilden
Fort Tilden, Bldg. 1
Queens
Sunday, March 31
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Enter the woods with American Littoral Society naturalist Mickey Maxwell Cohen to search for early spring birds, bursting buds and historic fortifications of World War II. Bus Q – 22/35.

April

School Break – Huguenot Library Program
Staten Island
Tuesday, April 2
2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Design you own flower planter and listen to garden stories as we celebrate Earth Month. All supplies are provided call for reservations at (718)354 – 4574.

Naval Aviation Between the Wars, 1919 – 1941
Floyd Bennett Field
Brooklyn
Ryan Visitor Center
Sunday, April 14
2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Join a park ranger for a presentation and discussion of the development of the U. S. Naval aviation between World Wars I and II, and the role that Jamaica Bay played in it. Bus - Q35.

Star Gazing
Floyd Bennett Field
Community Garden
Brooklyn
Friday, April 19
7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Come gaze at the wonders of the night sky over Floyd Bennett Field with the Amateur Astronomers Association. Weather permitting; clear or partly clear skies. Dress for the weather. Telescopes will be provided.

Earth Day Beach Cleanup at Fort Wadsworth
Fort Wadsworth
Staten Island
Saturday, April 20
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
On the beach along USS North Carolina Rd.

Earth Day Beach Cleanup ♥
Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Queens
Saturday, April 20
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Volunteers wanted! Celebrate the upcoming Earth Day holiday by helping to clean up marine debris. Dress for the weather, wear long pants and long sleeves, sturdy shoes, and bring work gloves. Groups welcome. To register, call the refuge visitor center: (718)318 – 4340. Bus – Q 52/53.

Earth Day Bike Ride to the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Canarsie Pier
Brooklyn
Sunday, April 21
9:30 a.m. –11:30 a.m.
Join a Park Ranger on a bike trip along the bike path to the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge for a one way trip. Travel at a moderate pace. Bring water, sunscreen your own bike, helmet and dress for the ride. Space is limited; call (718) 338 – 3799 to make a reservation. (3.5 miles)

Celebrate Earth Day, 2013!
Location TBA
Sunday, April 21
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
All welcome to join with many volunteers to help clean the shorelines of Jamaica Bay. We will provide bags, gloves and water. You bring boots or old shoes/sneakers and enthusiasm. For more information call (917) 371-8577, or by e-mail: donriepe@gmail.com

Celebrate Earth Day and National Park Week with a Beach Clean-up
Great Kills Beach Center-
Parking Lot G
Staten Island
Sunday, April 21
1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Join the National Park Rangers for a spring-cleaning of the beach and maritime dune area. Bring gloves and water. Reservations required, call (718)987 – 6790.

Sunset and the Pink Moon ♥
Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Queens
Thursday, April 25
6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Take a sunset stroll along the West Pond Trail with a ranger. Enjoy watching the sun set over Jamaica Bay and the rise of the full moon, called the Pink Moon in folklore. Bring a flashlight. **Rain date, Sunday, April 28 (2.2 miles)**

Lantern Tour of Fort Wadsworth
Fort Wadsworth
Staten Island
Thursday, April 25
7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Explore the historic sites of the fort by night, and discover why they are a part of America's national park system. Bring a flashlight. Bus – S51/81.

The Prepared Paddler
Floyd Bennett Field
Brooklyn
Ryan Visitor Center
Monday, April 29
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Interested in going paddling in Jamaica Bay? Get an overview of paddling best practices. Learn about the skills and equipment you will need, so you can plan your next trip. Space is limited; call (718) 338 – 3799 for reservations.

NYC Audubon Spring Migration Workshop

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Queens
Sunday, April 28
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Celebrate spring with a walk around the refuge during the spring bird migration. Many species of birds including some warblers, orioles, & grosbeaks should be present. Leader: Don Riepe. To reserve call (917) 371 – 8577 or e –mail donriepe@gmail. Bus – Q 52/53.

May

7th Annual Earth Day – Rockaway

Beach Boardwalk at Beach 59 St.
Queens
Saturday, May 4
12 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Enjoy a day of fun! Free activities will raise awareness of the natural resources along the Rockaway shoreline: live music, kite making, mock dolphin rescue, planting, composting, face painting, water testing, raptor demonstrations and more. See www.rwalliance.org for more information.

Birds in the Web of Life ♥

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Queens
Saturday, May 11
9:30 a.m. –11 a.m.
What wild birds help prevent people from getting sick? What birds act like farmers? Hear how common birds of the refuge benefit humans and the rest of the ecosystem on this family friendly bird walk. We'll have binoculars available to borrow, please bring your own if you have them. (1 mile.) Bus – Q 52/53.

Bike Floyd Bennett Field

Floyd Bennett Field
Ranger Station
Brooklyn
Saturday, May 11
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Join a Park Ranger and enjoy the sites of Floyd Bennett Field. Travel at a moderate pace. Bring water, sunscreen, your own bike, helmet and dress for the ride. Space is limited;call (718) 338 – 3799 for reservations. (4 miles)

2nd Annual Rockaway Bike Parade

Ferry Landing, Beach Channel Dr. and Beach 108 St.
Queens
Saturday, May 18
11a.m. – 3 p.m.
Look for Gateway Rangers in the parade. This year the parade route will travel along Shorefront Parkway from Beach 108 Street to Beach 73rd Street. Individuals, schools, civic organizations and businesses are all encouraged to participate in the parade and "Best of Show" competition. For more information contact Rockaway Waterfront Alliance at www.rwalliance.org.

Lantern Tour of Fort Wadsworth

Fort Wadsworth
Staten Island
Thursday, May 23
7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Explore the historic sites of the fort by night, and discover why they are a part of America's national park system. Bring a flashlight. Bus – S51/81.

Sunset Ecology Cruise

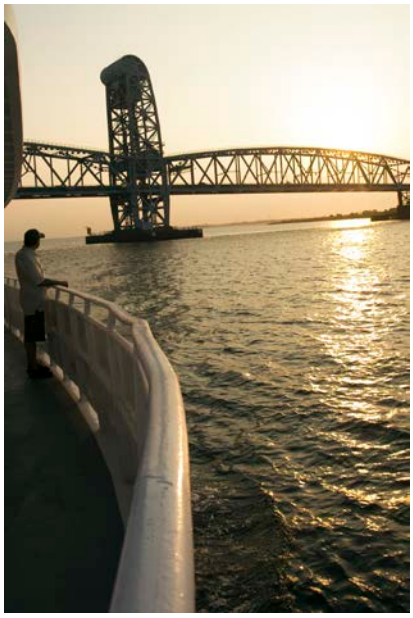
Sheepshead Bay, Pier 4
(Emmons Ave. & Bedford Aves.)
Brooklyn
Saturday, May 25
5 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Join us aboard the "Golden Sunshine" for our annual cruise along the backwaters of Jamaica Bay. See nesting egrets, herons, ibis, peregrine falcon and osprey. Cost: $55 includes 3-hour narrated tour plus wine & cheese, fruit and snacks. To reserve for this special cruise call (917) 371-8577, or e-mail: donriepe@gmail.com. Leaders: Mickey Cohen, Don Riepe. This is a partnership program with Gateway NRA, NYC Audubon and the American Littoral Society.

Red Knots and Horseshoe Crabs

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Queens
Sunday, May 26
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Come see the annual mating ritual of the horseshoe crabs as they come ashore to lay eggs. Also present will be red knots, sanderlings, ruddy turnstones and other shorebirds to feed on them. Learn about the history, ecology and medical value of the ancient 'crab'. Kids welcome! Meet at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge visitor center and carpooling to the ball field beach at the south end of Broad Channel. Leaders: Mickey Cohen, Don Riepe. Bus – Q 52/53.

Memorial Day Weekend – Stories

Fort Wadsworth Campground-Camp Hudson
Staten Island
Sunday, May 26
2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Develop a short story along with Park Rangers and create a short video of your park experience. Reservations required, call (718)354 – 4574, or (718)354 – 4655.



Continuing Programs

Awesome Osprey

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Queens
March 24 – May 31
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays

Stop by to observe our South Marsh osprey pair as they prepare to raise a family. Hear the remarkable stories of their annual long-distance migrations and their recovery in the US. Spotting scope provided for up-close views of these majestic birds of prey. Bus – Q 52/53.

Be a Bird Detective

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Queens
Saturdays, Sundays and holidays
10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Don't know much about birds? That is okay, we'll teach you! Learn to use binoculars and a bird detective checklist. See for yourself why Jamaica Bay is a special place for all kinds of birds. This family friendly program is good for newcomers to Jamaica Bay. Binoculars and field guides to share will be provided, but more are always welcome. Dress for the weather, but the program may be adapted to an indoor program. Bus – Q 52/53.

Partnering For Our Future: The Arrowhead and Maple Leaf Hold Hands

In July 2012, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar signed an unprecedented agreement between the National Park Service and the City of New York Department of Parks of Recreation – spelling out ways the two agencies will cooperatively manage 10,000 acres of federal and city-owned parks in and around Jamaica Bay to promote visitation, education programs, scientific research and recreational opportunities. By allowing the NPS and NYC Parks to work on each other's property, comingle resources and undertake joint planning, this innovative new partnership will serve to better connect urban communities to the natural beauty and history of Gateway National Recreation Area and adjacent city park lands. Stay tuned for news about new and improved Park offerings coming to you this summer! For more information, visit www.nps.gov/gate or call 311.

NYC 'Parks Department'

The City of New York Department of Parks and Recreation "Parks Department" takes care of the city's park system, its ecological diversity of the city's natural areas and providing recreational opportunities to the city's residents. The department maintains over 1700 parks, playgrounds and recreational facilities over the five boroughs. There are over 950 playgrounds, 700 sports fields, 550 tennis courts, 35 major recreation centers, 30 outdoor pools, 14 miles of beaches, 13 golf courses, seven nature centers, six ice rinks, 2000 greenstreets and four major stadiums. They also care for the park flora and fauna, community gardens, historic houses, statues and monuments and more than 2.5 million trees.

Marsh Restoration Planting

Join the Littoral Society and Jamaica Bay Ecowatchers for a special marsh planting project this April/May. This is a cooperative venture with Gateway NRA. For more information contact the Littoral Society at (917) 371-8577 or check www.littoralsociety.org

Designation of National Park Units

Did you know there are some eighteen designations of units that are included in the National Park System? These include National Park, National Monument, National Historic Site, National Memorial, National Recreation Area (NRA) and others. Gateway was designated in its original legislation as an NRA. There are a total of twenty NRAs in the system; twelve are centered on large reservoirs and emphasize water-based recreation. Other NRAs are located near major population centers. Such urban parks combine scarce open spaces with the preservation of significant historic resources and important natural areas in location that can provide outdoor recreation for large numbers of people. Gateway was the first urban park the others are Cleveland, (Cuyahoga River Valley); San Francisco, (Golden Gate); Atlanta, (Chattahoochee River) Los Angeles, (Santa Monica Mountains); Boston (Boston Harbor Islands).

The National Park Service encompasses approximately 83.6 million acres in 398 units, of which more than 4.3 million acres remain in private ownership. The largest area is Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, Alaska. At 13,200,000 acres it is 16.3 percent of the entire system. The smallest unit in the system is Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial, Pennsylvania, at 0.02 of an acre. Gateway comes in at 26,603.63 acres.

New York Units: Addenda; New Jersey: (Sandy Hook) Reopens May 1

Addenda-- These programs have been added for Brooklyn and Queens:

A Walk in the Park♥

Floyd Bennett Field,
Brooklyn
Ryan Visitors Center
Monday, Wednesday and Friday,
May 1 - June 28
10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Enjoy a heart healthy 1.25 mile round trip walk along the Hangar Row Historic District from the historic airport terminal at the Ryan Visitor Center to the Ranger Station and back. Meet at 10 am return by 11 am. No reservations required, groups are welcome.

Healthy Heart Beach Walk♥

Riis Park Parking Lot Entrance,
Queens
Sunday, May 26 and July 7th
8 am – 10 am
Travel with a Park Ranger for a 3 mile morning walk on the beach, heading east to 109th Street. Wear comfortable shoes, bring water and sunscreen. Find out about upcoming programs and amenities in the Rockaways. No reservation required.

The Sandy Hook Lighthouse is the oldest continually operating navigational light in the US. Built in 1764, to a design by Isaac Conro, it stands 500 feet high. The lighthouse reopens on May 1 when Sandy Hook opens again to the public after the forced closure by Hurricane Sandy.

Sandy Hook Programs & Events

Plan to come for the opening event on Wednesday, May1. Be aware that not all areas will be open, there will be portable toilets, and you should bring drinking water.

Prior to the park opening, Clean Ocean Action has organized a clean-up day on Saturday, April 27, from 9 to noon. See details below.

April

Clean Ocean Action Spring Beach Sweep

Parking Lot B
Saturday, April 27
9 a. m. - 12 p. m.
Help clean the beaches at the annual statewide Clean Ocean Action Spring Beach Sweeps. All ages welcome. Bring work gloves, dress for the weather, and wear closed toe shoes. The event is rain or shine. Visit www.cleanoceanaction.org for more information.

PARK OPENS- MAY 1, 2013

Sandy Hook Opening Ceremony

Wednesday, May 1. Time TBA
Join NPS staff and assembled dignitaries for the ceremony and celebration to welcome the public back following the closure resulting from Hurricane Sandy.

Sandy Hook Lighthouse & Keepers Quarters/Sandy Hook Visitor Center

Visitor Center Hours:
Daily, 9 a.m. – 5 p. m.
Lighthouse Tours:
Daily, 1 p. m. – 4:30 p. m.
The Spermaceti Cove Visitor Center is closed indefinitely. The Visitor Center will be relocated at the Lighthouse Keeper's Quarters in Fort Hancock. The 1883 Keepers Quarters has exhibits on New Jersey Lighthouses. The nearby keeper's barn is open with a video on the history of the Sandy Hook Lighthouse. Tours are first-come first-served. You must be 48 inches or taller to climb the tower.

May

Nike Missile Site Tours

Parking Lot L
Sunday, May 5, 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Saturday, May 11, 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Sunday, May 19, 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.
The Fort Hancock Nike Site NY 56 Volunteer Association provide guided tours of the "top secret" Nike Missile Radar Site on Sandy Hook. Tours are free and open to the public.

Secret Places of Sandy Hook

Sunday, May 6
2 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Visit some of the less visited, out-of-the-way places on Sandy Hook. This ranger-led car caravan tour will make stops to the historic sites around Sandy Hook. Please wear walking shoes and bring flashlights. The program is free. Call (347) 539-0876 for reservations. ♥ ½ mile

Clean Ocean Action Student Summit

North Beach Plaza
Tuesday & Wednesday, May 21 & 22
9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
The Student Summit provides middle-school students the opportunity to experience hands-on, marine environmental education. Activities include horseshoe crab discovery, project terrapin and seashell and invertebrate identification. The Student Summit will be focused on the causes and impacts of Superstorm Sandy. Schools must register on-line with Clean Ocean Action at www.CleanOceanAction.org.

American Littoral Society Horseshoe Crab Walk

Parking Lot B
Thursday, May 23
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Get up close and personal with a living fossil. Take an evening walk at Plum Island on Sandy Hook to look for spawning horseshoe crabs. Wear waterproof footwear. Cost: Free. Call (732) 291-0055 for reservations.