



## Visitor Programs and Events – Summer 2011

### Sandy Hook Unit



#### Be Prepared to Get Outdoors! Keep Summer Safe and Have Some Fun!

Your time spent outdoors will be safe and more enjoyable if you remember a few simple tips. To safely enjoy swimming at Gateway's ocean beaches, swim only where and when lifeguards are on duty. Wear sunscreen, dress in layers, and drink plenty of fluids to prevent heat stress. Protect yourself from ticks and mosquitoes with insect repellent and light colored clothing, wear sturdy shoes and tuck your pants bottoms into your socks. Bring a camera, binoculars, hand lens, and personal journal to get up close to nature and record your memorable discoveries. And don't forget to check the park website [www.nps.gov/gate](http://www.nps.gov/gate), follow us on Facebook or Twitter, or call the park for updates on program changes and park conditions. Then, get outside and have some fun!

#### Let's Move Outside Junior Rangers!

Let's Move Outside Junior Rangers is a fitness initiative dedicated to getting kids and families to take advantage of America's outdoors with active recreation and learning in National Parks. Children ages 7-12 are invited to get a healthy start to a healthy future by participating in any of the guided Jr. Ranger programs that are being offered throughout Gateway, throughout the summer. In addition, they can embark on a self-guided Jr. Ranger adventure with their families, by picking up a Jr. Ranger booklet at any visitor contact station. Junior Rangers who participate in ranger-guided programs or the self-guided program can earn a certificate, Junior Ranger badge or a special patch, while championing the Junior Ranger motto: "explore, learn and protect."

#### 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!

#### Sandy Hook Unit General Information

##### Park Hours:

5 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily

##### 24 Hour Emergency Number for Sandy Hook: (732) 872 – 5900

##### For information about the park, or park programs, call the Sandy Hook Visitor Center:

(732) 872 – 5970

Radio 680 AM provides the latest information about Sandy Hook and can be tuned in approximately one mile from the park entrance.

Sandy Hook is a carry-in, carry-out park. There are no trash receptacles at the beaches, or in the Fort Hancock area of the park. Bringing your trash home with you protects nesting shore birds from foxes and other predators attracted by garbage.

## Facilities and Open Houses

### Sandy Hook Visitor Center

Daily

9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

The Visitor Center is in the historic Spermaceti Cove Life-Saving Station and features exhibits and a bookstore. Call (732) 872 – 5970.

### History House

Daily, June 20 - August 21

1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

An 1898 lieutenant's quarters on "Officers Row" overlooking Sandy Hook Bay is furnished to the 1940s, the busiest time at Fort Hancock.

### Sandy Hook Lighthouse and Keepers Quarters

Daily

1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Tours are first-come, first-served. You must be 48 inches tall to climb the tower. Sign up in the 1883 Keeper's Quarters for Lighthouse tours, and see exhibits on New Jersey Lighthouses and the rotating art exhibit displayed there. Grounds and video in adjacent barn are always open. Groups must make advance reservations. Call the Visitor Center for more information.

### Sunset and Sunrise Lighthouse Climbs ♥

Keepers Quarters

Sunrise Climbs: Wednesdays,

July 20, August 17

Sunset Climbs: Tuesdays, July 12,

July 26, and August 9

Back by popular demand! Climb the oldest operating lighthouse in America during hours when the Light Keeper would have traditionally climbed in the days of old. Bring your camera! Reservations required, call (732) 872 – 5970.

### Sandy Hook Bird Observatory

Building 20, Fort Hancock's Officers Row

Tuesdays through Fridays,

10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturdays in June,

10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sundays in June,

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Saturdays in July and August,

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Sundays in July & August - Closed.

This New Jersey Audubon Society Field Center has a bookshop and displays. Call (732) 872 – 2500 for information.

### Battery Potter

Weekends June 4 – August 28

1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Explore and tour Sandy Hook's oldest gun battery, and the first concrete gun battery ever built, which was completed in 1894.

### Battery Gunnison in World War II

Weekends June 12 – August 28

1 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Visit with Park Rangers and Army Ground Forces Association members in WWII uniform and learn about Battery Gunnison/New Peck in 1943, and its role in defending against Nazi Germany's navy in WWII. Functional exhibits include two six inch M1900 coastal guns and highlight the technology of the time period.

### Nike Missile Radar Site

Parking Lot L

Saturdays, June 18, July 9, July

30, & August 20

Sundays, June 5, June 26, July 17,

August 7, & August 28

12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Join Fort Hancock Nike veterans and others to tour the site where radar once guided missiles that protected New York City.

## Continuing Weekday Programs

### Mondays

#### Canoe Program ♥

Sandy Hook Visitor Center

Mondays, June 20 – August 15

9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Take a morning paddle to explore Sandy Hook Bay from an ideal vantage point – the water itself. Rangers guide you on this tour of the bayside waters and Skeleton Hill Island. Free, but reservations required. Call (732) 872 – 5970. (2 miles)

#### Seining at Horseshoe Cove

Horseshoe Cove

Mondays, June 27 – August 22

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Join our ranger staff for some seining to explore hands-on what marine creatures are lurking just beneath the surface of Sandy Hook Bay.

### Tuesdays

#### Crustacean of the Day

Beach Area E

Tuesdays, June 20 – August 22

1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Rangers have fun facts and close-up looks at marine life to share with beachgoers of all ages. Drop in for a little while or a long while to learn fun facts and enjoy close-up looks at marine life.

### Wednesdays

#### Canoe Program ♥

Sandy Hook Visitor Center

Wednesdays, June 22 – August 17

9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Take a morning paddle to explore Sandy Hook bay from an ideal vantage point — the water itself. Rangers guide you on this tour of the bayside waters and Skeleton Hill Island. Free, but reservations required. Call (732) 872 – 5970. (2 miles)

## Seining at Horseshoe Cove

Horseshoe Cove  
Wednesdays, June 29 –  
August 24  
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Join our ranger staff for some seining and explore hands-on what marine creatures are lurking just beneath the surface of Sandy Hook Bay. Seine a little or seine a lot: visitors are welcome to stop by to participate at any time during the hours rangers are at the Cove.

## From to French Fries to Fuel: Biodiesel at the Beach

North Beach Pavilion  
Wednesdays,  
June 22 – August 17  
1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Explore the process of making french fry grease into fuel at this hands-on demonstration.

## Thursdays

### Crustacean of the Day

Beach Area E  
Thursdays, June 23 - August 25  
1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Drop in for a little while or a long while to learn fun facts and enjoy close – up looks at marine life.

## Fridays

### Canoe Program ♥

Meet at Sandy Hook Visitor Center

Fridays, June 24 – August 19  
9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Take a morning paddle to explore Sandy Hook Bay from an ideal vantage point—the water itself. Rangers guide you on a tour of the bayside waters and Skeleton Hill Island. Free, but reservations required. Call (732) 872 – 5970. (2 miles)

### Crustacean of the Day

Beach Area E  
Fridays, June 24 – August 26  
1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Drop in for a little while or a long while to learn fun facts and enjoy close-up looks at marine life.

## Beach Concert Information

The Sandy Hook Foundation presents the popular and free summer concert series, which returns to Beach Area E every Wednesday at 6 p.m. throughout the summer, weather permitting.

June 15 Rip Tide (Classic & Jam Rock)

June 22 The Shots (Party Rock with a Celtic Flair)

June 29 Tim McLoone & The Shirleys (Rock/Americana)

July 6 Pat Guadagno & the Candle Brothers (Folk Rock)

July 13 Brian Kirk & The Jirks (Rock & Roll)

July 20 BethAnne Clayton (Country Rock)

July 27 British Invasion Tribute

August 3 Tim McLoone & The Shirley's (Rock/Americana)

August 10 Quincy Mumford (Rock n' Reggae)

August 17 Rain Date

August 24 JoBonano and the Godsons of Soul (Rock & Roll)

## Seining at Horseshoe Cove

Horseshoe Cove  
Fridays, July 1- August 19  
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Join our ranger staff for some seining to explore hands-on what marine creatures are lurking just beneath the surface of Sandy Hook Bay.

## June

### Art Exhibit:

#### Life on Sandy Hook

Lighthouse Keeper's Quarters  
Enjoy "Plein Air" style paintings by Judy Stach and her students.

### Monmouth County

#### Audubon Society Bird Walk

Visitor Center Parking Lot  
Thursday, June 9  
6 p.m.

Watch nesting osprey, herons and egrets fishing along the bay side and enjoy the sunset from the migration watch platform with views of the dunes and New York.

### Sand Castle Building Day

Meet at Horseshoe Cove  
Saturday, June 11  
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

The Sandy Hook Child Care Center invites families to bring children for a fun day at the beach building sand castles. Buckets and shovels will be provided.

### Night Prowl

Meet at Visitor Center.  
Saturday, June 11  
8 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Explore the Sandy Hook's famous Holly Forest on this ranger-led sensory walk.

### Bunker to Bunker

Visitor Center Parking Lot  
Tuesday, June 14  
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Visit a World War Two gun battery at Fort Hancock then car caravan to Hartshorne Woods County Park in Highlands, NJ to visit two other gun batteries. Bring a flashlight. Reservations required, call (732) 872 – 5970.

### Night Hike ♥

Meet at Parking Lot C  
Thursday, June 16  
6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Explore the nature and history of Sandy Hook during this summer's series of night hikes. This night's hike features bayside exploration during peak horseshoe crab

season. Wear good walking shoes and bug repellent. Reservations required, call (732) 872 – 5970. (1 mile)

**Summer Solstice Walk ♥**  
Meet at Guardian Park  
Tuesday, June 21  
8 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Take a two-mile stroll with the American Littoral Society on the longest day of the year. You are welcome to bring a dinner, sit on the Society's front porch and enjoy the sunset beforehand. A special tour inside a gun battery may be included. Reservations required, call (732) 291 – 0055. (2 miles)

**Going Bunkers!**  
Theater Parking lot  
Tuesday, June 28  
6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Explore some of Sandy Hook's hidden gun batteries, including for the first time in many years, the inner tunnels of the Sandy Hook Mortar Battery. Hear about how the batteries functioned, and changed over time, and about when the Motor Battery served as intelligence command post for all of NY Harbor. Reservations required, call (732) 872 – 5970.

## July

**Art Exhibit: Photographs of Robert Hillmann**

Lighthouse Keeper's Quarters  
Robert Hillmann, a National Park Service carpenter, captures the treasures of Sandy Hook and Fort Hancock through his eye and camera's lens.

**American Littoral Society Family Seining Adventure**  
Building No. 18  
July 14, 21, & 28  
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

After a short talk on the Society's front porch, head over to Horseshoe Cove to do some seining. Children help pull the nets in, and observe the catch in holding tanks before releasing them back to the bay. Call (732) 292 – 0055 for reservations and fee information.

**Battery Gunnison/New Peck Preserved**

Thursday – Saturday  
July 14 – 17  
12 p.m. – 5 p.m.

The Army Ground Forces Association is a volunteer group in World War II era uniform performing restoration projects and interpreting Battery Gunnison/New Peck. Visitors are invited to stop by to chat and learn more about restoration of Battery Gunnison/New Peck, and the historic time period of July 1943.

**What is Living History, Anyway?**

Battery Gunnison  
Saturday, July 16  
5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Learn about this interesting, unique and often misunderstood way of preserving history. Look at a soldier's equipment from WWII and explore what Army life was like at Fort Hancock circa 1943.

**Night Hike**  
Parking Lot C

Friday, July 15  
7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Explore the nature and history of Sandy Hook with this summer's series of night hikes. This night's hike features night seining, which is always an interesting adventure! Bring a flashlight and insect repellent, and wear shoes you can get wet. Reservations required, call (732) 872 – 5970.

**Holly Forest Night Prowl**  
Sandy Hook Visitor Center  
Friday, July 22  
7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Explore Sandy Hook's famous Holly Forest with your five senses on this nighttime walk led by a ranger. Family fun for everyone!

**Campfire on the Beach**  
Visitor Center Beach (between Lot D and Lot E)  
Friday, July 29  
7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Sing silly Sandy Hook songs, and hear true stories from days of yore surrounding the history and mysteries of the Hook. Participants are encouraged to bring beach blankets or chairs, snacks, bug spray, family and friends! Call (732) 872 – 5970 for more information.

**Monmouth County Audubon Society Bird Walk**  
Visitor Center Parking Lot  
Thursday, July 28  
6 p.m.

See nesting osprey, herons and egrets fishing along the bay side and the sunset from the migration watch platform overlooking the dunes and New York.

**SeaQuest Summer Camp**  
July 25 – 29, August 1 – 5, and August 8-12  
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Treat your kids to a week of educational fun with the American Littoral Society on Sandy Hook. Under the guidance of our experienced educators, enrolled children will explore the marine environment, learn how to be better stewards of the coast, and discover careers in the sciences. For students entering grades 5-8. Spaces are limited. Call (732) 291 – 0055 for fee information and to register.

## August

**Art Exhibit: Life on Sandy Hook**  
Lighthouse Keeper's Quarters  
Deborah Redden, a lifetime resident of the Jersey Shore and avid sailor, paints on location. She works to capture the emotion of the scene in a spontaneous burst of color and brushwork that results in a unique expression of artistic energy. Redden is a Past President of the Board of Trustees of the Guild of Creative Art, Shrewsbury where she teaches Drawing and Painting in Watercolor.

## **American Littoral Society Family Seining Adventure**

Meet at Building No. 18  
Thursdays, August 4, 11, & 18  
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

After a short talk on the Society's front porch, head over to Horseshoe Cove to do some seining. Children help pull the nets in, and observe the catch in holding tanks before releasing them back to the bay. Call (732) 291 – 0055 for fee information and to reserve.

## **Campfire on the Beach**

Visitor Center Beach (between Lot D and Lot E)

Friday, August 12

7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Sing silly Sandy Hook songs, and hear true stories from days of yore surrounding the history and mysteries of the Hook.

Participants are encouraged to bring beach blankets or chairs, snacks, bug spray, family and friends! Call (732) 872 – 5970 for more information.

## **Night Prowl**

Meet at Visitor Center

Saturday, August 13

7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Explore the Sandy Hook's famous Holly Forest on this sensory walk led by a ranger. This is the full moon version, so this view of the Holly Forest and its many inhabitants at night will be especially unique. Call (732) 872 – 5970 for more information.

## **Night Hike**

Meet at Parking Lot C

Friday, August 19

7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Explore the nature and history of Sandy Hook with this summer's series of night hikes. This night's hike is the "Ranger's Choice" hike, so the question is: Are you feeling adventurous? Bring a flashlight and insect repellent. Reservations required, call (732) 872 – 5970.

## **Junior Ranger**

### **Programs: Ages 7-11**

Children must be accompanied by an adult. In-park travel between sites is required for some programs. All programs are free, but reservations are required. For information and reservations call (732) 872 – 5970.

### **Junior Ranger:**

#### **Treasure Hunter ♥**

History House

Tuesdays, June 28, July 19, &

August 16

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Discover military village life in Fort Hancock by collecting clues hidden among the waysides posted around the parade grounds. (1 mile)

### **Junior Ranger:**

#### **Marine Invader**

Sandy Hook Visitor Center

Sunday, July 10; Tuesday, July

26; Tuesday, August 9

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Group caravan to Horseshoe Cove to participate in hands-on citizen scientist work by helping rangers find, catch, identify and track the Asian Shore Crab, and explore its potential impact on native crab species. Families will drive to two sites within the park.

### **Junior Ranger:**

#### **Piping Plover**

North Beach Pavilion

Sunday, July 17

10:30 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.

Be a plover private investigator, and figure out what predators are threatening plover chicks. Then, invent solutions to protect them. See some piping plovers for yourself through a spotting scope.

### **Junior Ranger: Pirate ♥**

Sandy Hook Visitor Center

Tuesdays, July 12, August 2, &

August 16

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

There are lots of pirate connections to Sandy Hook. Children will re – enact true Sandy Hook pirate stories and use a "treasure map" to locate hidden "pirate booty" around a historic area of the Hook (Captain Kidd's Meadow). Pirate attire, accents and attitude "Aaaarrrrgh" required! (1 mile)

### **Junior Ranger:**

#### **Firefighter**

Fire Station Number 2

Tuesdays, July 5 & August 23

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Participants will learn hands-on how fires have been extinguished in the past, and how they are handled now by National Park Service Firefighters at Sandy Hook. Learn about different historic and modern firefighting equipment; get "pumped up" to climb up in a pumper truck to see the workings of its sirens and lights; and put out imaginary fires with a real fire hose.

### **Junior Ranger:**

#### **Horseshoe Crab**

Meet at Horseshoe Cove

(Parking Lot L)

Wednesdays, June 29 & July 13

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Find, see and feel some living fossils from the age of dinosaurs that are still swimming along the shores today, and aid their survival by hands-on participation in "Horseshoe Crab Rehab."

### **Junior Ranger:**

#### **Artillery Corps**

Battery Gunnison

Wednesdays, July 20 and

August 10

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Learn about a World War II coast defense battery through hands-on exploration. Participants explore the duties of a cannoneer, including how to load and operate a real 6" coastal gun that protected New York Harbor during World War II.

**JUNIOR Junior Ranger:  
For kids ages 2-4**

Wednesdays , 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Jr. Junior Ranger is a program designed for 2 – 4 year olds to learn about habitats and history on Sandy Hook. The program is being offered on Wednesdays from June 22 – August 24.

Children will learn through hikes, walks, and demonstrations, and a hands-on recycled or reclaimed material craft activity is built into every lesson. Parents are required to accompany their children for the entirety of the program, and spaces are limited. Reservations required; call (732) 872 – 5970 to reserve your child’s spot.

**Splishy, Splashy, Squishy:  
Let’s go seining!**

June 22

Horseshoe Cove

**Holly Safari**

Visitor Center

June 29

Hike and learn in the Holly Forest.

**Firefighting for  
“Little Squirts”**

Fire Station Number 2 (across the street from the Sandy Hook Lighthouse)

July 6

**Surf, Sand, and Shells:  
Beach Habitats and  
Sandcasting**

Guardian Park

July 13

**Habitats and Tracking:  
Sandy Hook’s Animal  
Inhabitants**

Guardian Park

July 20

**Splishy, Splashy, Squishy:  
Let’s go seining (again)!**

Horseshoe Cove

July 28

**Surf, Sand, and Shells:  
Beach Habitats and  
Sandcasting**

Guardian Park

August 3

**Creepy Crawlies & Water  
Babies: The Hook’s  
Swimming Insects**

Visitor Center

August 10

**Explore a Lighthouse,  
Then BYO (Build Your  
Own!)**

Sandy Hook Lighthouse

Keeper’s Quarters

August 17

Participants will car caravan to Twin Lights State Historic Site.

Bring a picnic lunch (weather permitting)!

**Last Seine of the Season**

Horseshoe Cove

August 24

**Summer Ferry Service  
to Sandy Hook**

Ferry service from Manhattan to Sandy Hook will be offered this summer via the SeaStreak ferry company. Call 1-800-BOATRIDE or go to [seastreak.com](http://seastreak.com) for information regarding operating dates, ticket prices, and more information.

**Park Phone Numbers –  
Sandy Hook Cooperators**

The National Park Service’s partners at Sandy Hook in education and research are:

**The Sandy Hook Foundation  
(The Official Friends Group of  
the National Park Service at  
Sandy Hook)**

(732) 291 – 7733

[www.sandyhookfoundationnj.org](http://www.sandyhookfoundationnj.org)

**American Littoral Society**

(732) 291 – 0055

[www.littoralsociety.org](http://www.littoralsociety.org)

**Army Ground**

**Forces Association**

[www.armygroundforces.org](http://www.armygroundforces.org)

**Brookdale Community College**

(732) 224 – 2435

[www.brookdalecc.edu](http://www.brookdalecc.edu)

**Clean Ocean Action**

(732) 872 – 0111

[www.cleanoceanaction.org](http://www.cleanoceanaction.org)

**National Oceanic &  
Atmospheric Administration,  
Northeast Fisheries Center  
James J. Howard Marine  
Laboratory**

(732) 872 – 3000

<http://sh.nefsc.noaa.gov>

**Marine Academy of  
Science and Technology**

(732) 291 – 0995

[www.mast.mcvsd.org](http://www.mast.mcvsd.org)

**New Jersey Lighthouse Society**

(732) 291 – 4777

[www.njlhs.org](http://www.njlhs.org)

**New Jersey  
Sea Grant Consortium**

(732) 872 – 1300

[www.njmssc.org](http://www.njmssc.org)

**Sandy Hook Child Care Center**

(732) 291 – 2368