



Visitor Programs and Events

Summer 2015

Staten Island, New York

Summer—Really Arriving?

Spring has been a long time coming, and it follows one of the worst winters we have known for some time. There have already been droves of visitors at all the sites and it is clear that people are having a great time at Gateway already, but there's more to come.

Celebrating the National Park Service Centennial: Find Your Park!

Enter the Gateway Photo Contest to be held during the month of July. The pictures must be recent (within the current year) and must tell the story: **I found my park!** The park need not be in the NPS system, but can be any park which you use, enjoy and consider yours.

We have created a special **Gateway Photo Contest Edition: *I found my park!*** posted below. Please go to this edition to get the full contest rules. We have included some sample pictures as well. Note that these pictures are not contest entries, but have been chosen because they show context, setting, and tell a story. Don't feel that you have to replicate these....**You find your park** and tell your story by entering the contest. Contest submissions are during month of July.

This summer guide has one of the richest and most varied selection of activities we have offered, A special focus this season is on introductory programs specifically designed for newbies.

On Sunday June 14, we present **Play by the Bay**, by NYC Parks and National Park Service. Come to experience a range of demonstrations including camping, kayaking, biking, see live birds of prey, live music, dance and storytelling. This event is designed to showcase activities you can do all summer at the various park sites including our sister NYC Parks in Jamaica Bay.

At **Jamaica Bay** there's Your Park Your Health: Check out: Let's Go Camping, Let's go Kayaking, and Let's go Biking



"Battery Weed and Skyline" was entered in the 2014 photo contest by Jared Kofsky.

--these are introductory--if you have never camped, kayaked or biked these are great intros. We have the Absolute Beginner Series: Join us for Birding and Morning Meditation. In addition the Walk up and Paddle kayak sessions are designed for newbies. And for those who are into gardening, learn to make your own herbed vinegars and oils, and natural dyes.

At **Staten Island** our popular evening Lantern Tours are offered several times, or join us for the overnight camping programs designed for newbies. There's a campfire reading of *Treasure Island* at Great Kills, or Celebrate the NPS Centennial and Independence Day at the Fort Wadsworth Overlook.

At **Sandy Hook** we have reopened History House, and there are lots of programs for kids. The ever popular Beach Concerts presents nine shows from June 17 to August 12. Or try out canoeing if you have never done it. And we have programs that are after peak sun for those who are ready to do some exploring after the beach.

And of course there are the beaches – Riis, Staten Island, Sandy Hook—take your pick, and try'em all, but never swim in unguarded areas.

Please check out the guides for all the units to see which programs may provide some new experiences for you to help you get outside and get moving.

These programs, events and activities are great opportunities to Find Your Park, so take the camera and submit your pictures that say ***I Found My Park!*** Have a great and safe summer.

Do you receive email notifications of Gateway's programs and events? If you are not on our mailing list and would like to be, please send a message to Charles_Markis@nps.gov, with 'program guide' in the subject line and we will add you.

The ♥ symbol denotes a hike or walk of moderate activity. Improve your health, as you enjoy your park.

MAY

Amateur Astronomers Association of New York

Great Kills Park-parking lot A

Saturday, May 23

8:30 - 10:00 PM

The Staten Island Chapter of the Amateur Astronomer's Association hosts public stargazing at the main parking area, Lot A. Inclement weather will cancel this program.

JUNE

Horseshoe Crab Walk and Tagging

Great Kills Park

Beach Center-Parking Lot G

Tuesday, June 2, 7 - 8:30 PM

Join in this search at Crooke's Point for the mysterious horseshoe crab while this ancient species comes ashore to spawn.

Assist with tagging. Visitors must show up no later than 7 p.m. in order to receive a special program parking permit for Crooke's Point. Wear appropriate shoes; reservations required. Call (718) 354-4655. (1 mile) ♥

Great Kills Nature Walk

Sundays: June 7, July 12, and August 9

10AM-11AM

Meet at Park Entrance (1 mile) ♥

Offsite Program: Conservation Celebration at the Staten Island Zoo

Sunday, June 7,

noon- 3:00 PM

Location: 614 Broadway, Staten Island, NY

Join the Zoo and other conservation organizations as we host a Party for the Planet. Explore the many ways that we can be a part of helping the environment. The zoo is proud to host this annual event bringing together a variety of different education demonstrations, live music, crafts and a greater awareness of the health of our planet.

Overnight Family and Youth Camping

Fort Wadsworth, Camp Hudson

Friday, June 12

Check in: 2 PM - Check out: 10 AM

Enjoy marine nature study and hiking with National Park rangers. Learn to pitch a tent, build a fire, cook and make s'mores over a fire pit. This program is free. All equipment will be provided - just bring your own food, insect repellent, and ice. Space is limited. Call (718) 354-4655 for more information and reservations.

Seine and Search

Fort Wadsworth Campground

Friday, June 12

2:30 - 4:30 PM

Experience the Native American fishing technique known as seining while discovering the animals that live along the shore. All equipment will be provided.

"Treasure Island" by Campfire

Saturday, June 20

6:30PM-9PM

Great Kills Park Beach Center
Staten Island OutLOUD presents a campfire reading of "Treasure Island," a tale of pirates and buried treasure on a mysterious island. Robert Louis Stevenson's novel has fascinated readers for more than a century. Perfect for all ages. Free! Bring lawn chairs. If it rains, we'll gather indoors by candlelight at the Great Kills Park's Education Field Station, Hylan Blvd. & Buffalo St. Details:

www.statenislandoutloud.org

Lantern Tours of Fort Tompkins

Saturday and Sunday, June 20 and June 21, 8PM-10PM

Explore historic Fort Wadsworth with a ranger by the light of the moon. Bring a flashlight and wear sturdy walking shoes. Meet at the visitor center parking lot on New York Avenue. Reservations Required at 718-338-3799. *These are New York State Paths through History event.*

Amateur Astronomers Association of New York

Great Kills Park -Parking Lot A

Saturday, June 20

8:30 -10 PM

The Staten Island Chapter of the Amateur Astronomer's Association hosts public stargazing at the main parking area, Lot A. Inclement weather will cancel this program.

History Tour

Fort Wadsworth Overlook

Sunday, June 21

noon--1:30 PM

Join us for a 1.5-hour hike at Fort Wadsworth as we explore both the natural areas and the remnants of the former harbor defense system. Inclement weather will cancel the program. Reservations required. Call (718) 354-4655. (2 miles) ♥

JULY

Full Moon Lantern Tours of Fort Tompkins

July 1, July 31, and August 29, 8PM-10PM

Explore historic Fort Wadsworth with a ranger by the light of a full moon. Bring a flashlight and wear sturdy walking shoes. Meet at the visitor center parking lot on New York Avenue. Reservations Required at 718-338-3799.

Special Event: Centennial Celebrate Independence Day

Fort Wadsworth Overlook

Saturday, July 4, 5:30-8:00 PM

Enjoy Living History, fort Tours, and children's activities, art and a scavenger hunt. Have a picnic, bring a blanket and stay for the fireworks! Call 718 354- 4655 for information.

Overnight Family and Youth Camping

Fort Wadsworth Camp Hudson
Monday, July 6
Check in: 2:00 PM - departure:
10:00 AM
Enjoy marine nature study and hiking with National Park Rangers. Learn to pitch a tent, build a fire, cook and make s'mores over a fire pit. This program is free. All equipment will be provided -- just bring your own food, insect repellent, and ice. Space is limited. Call (718) 354-4655 for more information and reservations.

Seine and Search

Fort Wadsworth Campground
Monday, July 6
2:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Experience the Native American fishing technique known as seining while discovering the animals that live along the shore. All equipment will be provided.

Amateur Astronomers Association of New York

Great Kills Park –Parking Lot A
Saturday, July 18
8:30 -10 PM
The Staten Island Chapter of the Amateur Astronomer's Association hosts public stargazing at the main parking area, lot A. Inclement weather will cancel this program.

History Tour

Fort Wadsworth Overlook
Sunday, July 19
noon--1:30 PM
Join us for a 1.5-hour hike at Fort Wadsworth as we explore both the natural areas and the remnants of the former harbor defense system. Inclement weather will cancel the program. Reservations required. Call (718) 354-4655.

AUGUST

Amateur Astronomers Association of New York

Great Kills Park –Parking Lot A
Saturday, August 15
8:30 -10 PM
The Staten Island Chapter of the Amateur Astronomer's Association hosts public stargazing at the main parking area, lot A. Inclement weather will cancel this program.

History Tour

Fort Wadsworth Overlook
Sunday, August 16
noon--1:30 PM
Join us for a 1.5-hour hike at Fort Wadsworth as we explore both the natural areas and the remnants of the former harbor defense system. Inclement weather will cancel the program. Reservations required. Call (718) 354-4655. Call 718 354-4655 for information.

Overnight Family and Youth Camping

Fort Wadsworth Camp Hudson
Tuesday, August 25, 2 PM -10 AM
Enjoy marine nature study and hiking with National Park Rangers. Learn to pitch a tent, build a fire, cook and make s'mores over a fire pit. This program is free. All equipment will be provided - just bring your own food, insect repellent, and ice. Space is limited. Call (718) 354-4655 for more information and reservations.

Seine and Search

Fort Wadsworth Campground
Tuesday, August 25
2:30 -4 PM
Experience the Native American fishing technique known as seining while discovering the animals that live along the shore. All equipment will be provided.

Special Event: Centennial Founder's Day Campfire

Fort Wadsworth Beach
Tuesday, August 25 from 7 – 9 PM
The National Park Service is turning 99 years old today! Help us celebrate as we listen to music and roast marshmallows around a campfire. Bring a blanket or chair, picnic (no glass bottles), and closed shoes. Call 718 354-4655 for details.

Recurring Programs

Discover Fort Tompkins

Wednesday-Sunday, June 17-September 6
11AM and 2PM
Explore the little known areas of this historic structure with a park ranger. Learn about coastal fortifications and get a glimpse of life in the 1800's. Wear sturdy footwear. Meet at the visitor center parking area, New York Avenue.

New York City Skyline Tour

Wednesday-Sunday, June 17-September 6
4PM-4:30PM
Fort Wadsworth Overlook
Experience the history of New York City from one of the best vantage points the city has to offer on this ranger-guided talk.

---end---

