



Visitor Programs and Events – Autumn 2012

Sandy Hook

On October 27, Gateway NRA Celebrates its 40th Anniversary!

On October 27, 1972, Congress passed legislation that created a new kind of national park. The park would have natural, historic, and recreational treasures that one would expect to find in a national park, but what made this place different, was its location. Unlike most large national parks, which were located in rural, and remote areas, this was located in and around the nation's largest urban area. The idea was to bring the parks to the people, and the result was Gateway National Recreation Area.

This fall, please join us as we celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the creation of the park. We will be conducting programs on the history of Gateway, and all of the things found here, that make it one of the great things about being in the New York and New Jersey metropolitan area.

At Sandy Hook we will mark the date with our annual observance of the Fort Hancock Days Weekend, Oct. 27-28. See inside for details.

Even if you can't join us for any of the programs, you can celebrate this special anniversary, by just enjoying the many things that make Gateway one of the unique parks in the national park system, and one of America's truly special places!

Gateway Visitor Centers and Contact Stations will be closed on Thursday, November 22, for the Thanksgiving Holiday.



September

Plumming on Sandy Hook Sandy Hook Visitor Center

Saturday, Sept 8

10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Collecting beach plums was an annual Lenape activity every fall. Car caravan and then walk with a ranger and discover why beach plum shrubs are unique to the shore. ♥ 1 mile

Beach Plum Jelly Making at History House

Saturday, Sept. 8

12:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Join a park ranger in making beach plum jelly using a traditional Sandy Hook Recipe. This free program is limited to 10 people. Call the Sandy Hook Visitor Center to make reservations.

Battery Gunnison/New Peck Restored

Saturday, September 8

11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Army Ground Forces Association Volunteers, in 1943 coastal artillery uniforms, work on restoration of Battery Gunnison/New Peck and its 6-inch guns. Visitors are invited to stop by to learn about the battery's role in protecting NY Harbor during September 1943, and AGFA's restoration projects.

Danskin Women's Triathlon

Sunday, September 9

7 a.m.- 12 p.m.

The triathlon is being held once again at Sandy Hook. Come cheer on over 3,000 participants in this swim/bike/run event which supports breast cancer research. For more information, visit

www.danskinwomenstri.com.

On our emailing 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; put 'program guide' in subject line.

Kids' Day with American Littoral Society

ALS Headquarters

(Bldg. 18)

Saturday, September 15

1:30 p.m.- 3:30 p.m.

Designed for children ages 4 to 8, this program will teach kids the art of seining, give an introduction to Sandy Hook, and offer an opportunity for "Fishy Fun," the ancient art of making Japanese fish prints with rubber fish and non-toxic paint. There is a \$5 fee for this program. Call 732-291-0055 to reserve your child's spot.

Cold War Day

Parking Lot L at Horseshoe
Cove

Sunday, September 16

1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Visit a Nike missile radar site restored to the time of the Cuban Missile Crisis. Visit and tour the Nike launch site. Learn about why these sites were essential to national security in the Cold War era.

Night Prowl

Visitor Center Parking Lot

Saturday, September 22

7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Bring a flashlight for this night walk that utilizes the five senses. Free, but reservations required. Call 732-872-5970. ♥1 mile

Lighthouse to Lighthouse Tour

Sandy Hook Keepers'
Quarters

Sunday, September 30

5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Climb the Sandy Hook Lighthouse starting at 5 p.m., then car caravan over to Twin Lights State Historic Site in the Highlands to climb the south tower there. Reservations required; please call 732-872-5970 to make yours.

Monarch Butterfly Walk Sandy Hook Visitor Center

Saturday, October 6

10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

This remarkable insect, whose migration route ends in Mexico, is featured on a ranger-led tour. Please call 732-872-5970 to make reservations. ♥ 1 mile

Monmouth County Audubon Society

Fall Bird Walk

Sandy Hook Visitor Center

Saturday, October 13

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Join MCAS on a fall bird walk for arriving waterfowl, migrating hawks, and sparrows. Bring binoculars and wear walking shoes. Free.

American Littoral Society Spooky Tales and Ghosts

of Historic Fort Hancock

Building 18

Friday, October 19

7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Get into the Halloween Spirit on this moonlight walk around Historic Fort Hancock where ghosts have been known to linger. Cider and fall snacks will be provided. Cost: \$5 per person. Call 732-291-0055 to make reservations.

Clean Ocean Action

25th Annual Beach Sweep

Lot Delta (Seagull's Nest
Lot)

Saturday, October 20

9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Spend a morning cleaning Sandy Hook's beaches. Bring gloves, attend rain or shine, and dress for the weather. Closed, hard-soled shoes are recommended. Individuals, families, and organized groups of all ages are welcome. Groups of 10 or more are asked to register with Clean Ocean Action in advance by visiting CleanOceanAction.org. Call 732-872-0111 for more information.

New Jersey Lighthouse Challenge Weekend

Sandy Hook Lighthouse

Saturday, Oct. 20, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 21, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

The Sandy Hook Light is one of the 11 New Jersey Lighthouses along the Atlantic coastline and Delaware Bay open for tours this weekend at this annual event sponsored by the NJ Lighthouse Society. For more information, visit <http://www.njlhs.org>.

FORT HANCOCK DAYS WEEKEND October 27-28

Gateway's 40th Anniversary

Mark the anniversaries of Gateway's 40th and the 1895 establishment of Fort Hancock and discover the fort's role in the defense of our nation.

World War II Harbor Defense Lantern Tour Fort Hancock Museum

Friday, Oct. 26

6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Volunteer living historians from the Army Ground Forces Association (AGFA) will be uniformed as World War II era coast artillery soldiers and will take you for a walk that includes several seacoast gun batteries of Fort Hancock ending at Battery Gunnison. Bring a flashlight. ♥1 mile

Fort Hancock Day Battery Gunnison/New Peck in World War II

Sunday, Oct. 28

12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Volunteers from the Army Ground Forces Association in World War Two uniform bring Battery Gunnison/New Peck and its 6-inch guns to life as they were in October 1943. Participate in loading and pointing the guns, tracking ships and learn how soldiers lived and worked at Ft. Hancock in October 1943.

History House October 27 & 28

1p.m. – 5p.m.

This 1898 lieutenant's residence along "Officers Row" is furnished as it was in the 1940's when Fort Hancock was at its busiest.

November

Surf Fishing Clinic Building 18

Saturday, November 3

8 a.m. – 10 a.m.

Join American Littoral Society staff members for a day of surf fishing and instruction on the beach at Sandy Hook. Skills covered include casting, knot tying, lure/bait selection, and "reading" a beach. All skill levels are accommodated. Rods, reels and tackle will be provided, but bring your own equipment if you have it. Children are welcome with a supervising adult. Bring a lunch for the beach. Space is limited; call 732-291-0055 to reserve. Fees: \$20 per member family, \$40 per non-member family.

Cold War Defenses on Sandy Hook

Nike Ajax Missile, ¼ mile north of the Ranger Station

Sunday, November 11

2 p.m. – 4p.m.

Car caravan to Sandy Hook's Nike missile sites built as part of the Cold War air defenses in the 1950s.

Holly Forest Ramble Sandy Hook Visitor Center

Saturday, November 17

2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Join us for ranger-led walk through Sandy Hook's maritime holly forest at a prime time to visit the area. ♥1 mile

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 Visitor Center Daily, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

The Visitor Center is in the historic Spermaceti Cove Life-Saving Station and features exhibits. Call 732-872-5970. **Starting October 15, 2012 the Visitor Center will be closed. The Visitor Center will be relocated at the Lighthouse Keeper's Quarters for the fall and winter season.**

Sandy Hook Lighthouse & Keepers Quarters

Keepers Quarters: Daily, 1 p.m - 5 p.m. Lighthouse Tours: Daily, 1p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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.

History House

Weekends, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

History House is a lieutenant's home on "Officer's Row" overlooking Sandy Hook Bay. It's furnished for WWII, the busiest time at Fort Hancock.

Nike Missile Radar Site Parking Lot L at Horseshoe Cove

Saturday, September 8, 12 - 4pm
Saturday, September 15, 12 - 4pm
Sunday, September 16, 12 - 4pm
(Cold War Day)
Sunday, September 23, 12 - 4pm
Saturday, October 6, 12 - 4pm
Saturday, October 13, 12 - 4pm
Sunday, October 21, 12 - 4pm
Sunday, October 28, 12 - 4pm
(Fort Hancock Day)
Sunday, Nov. 4, 12 - 4pm
Sunday, Nov. 11, 12 - 4pm