Gateway

National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior

Gateway National Recreation Area
New Jersey / New York

Visitor Programs and Events – Summer 2014

Sandy Hook

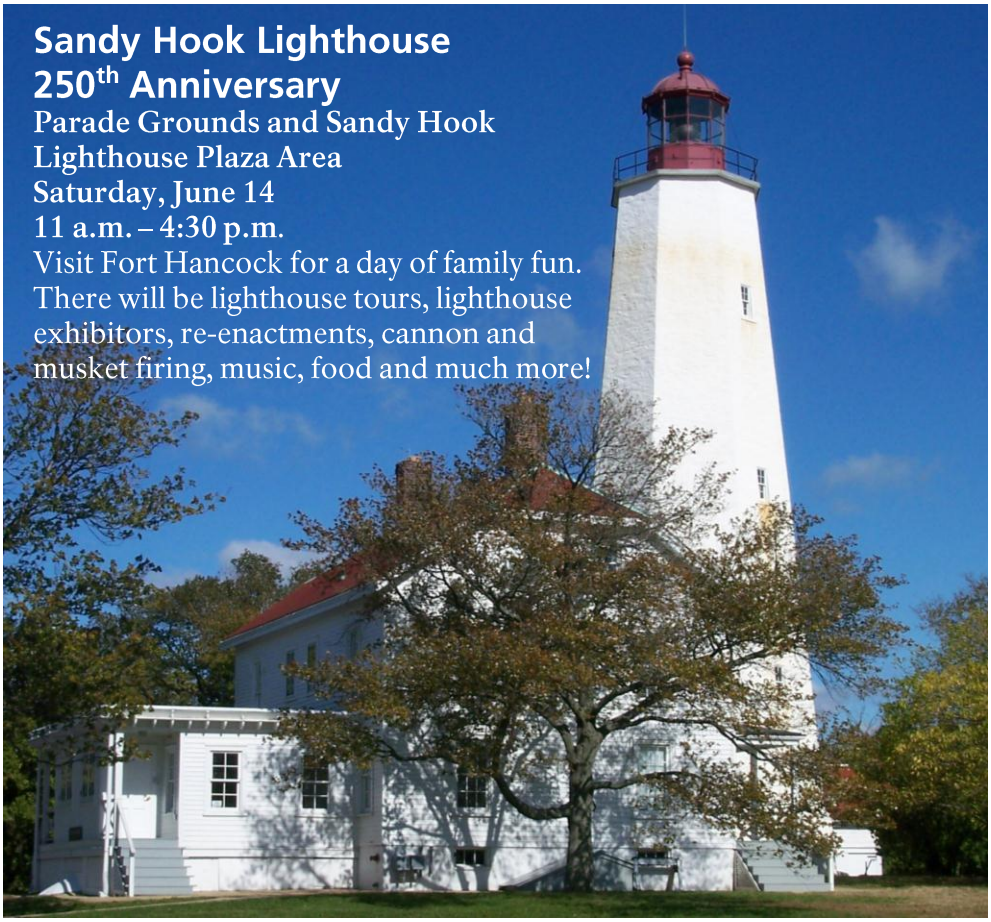
Sandy Hook Lighthouse: 250 Years of Service

By Tom Hoffman
Park Ranger / Historian

In the long history of America's lighthouses a milestone event will take place this June when the historic Sandy Hook Lighthouse turns 250 years old. The lighthouse was lighted for the first time on June 11, 1764. To mark that historic occasion, Gateway National Recreation Area will hold a celebration on Saturday, June 14, 2014, from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The celebration will include the Fife and Drum Corps of Trenton Barracks, who will provide 18th Century martial music. There will also be appropriate remarks by invited dignitaries, a short dramatization, telling the story of how and why the lighthouse was built, a Colonial Era children's games area, where today's children can play games that were popular with children of the colonial period, and a commercial refreshment area, providing food and drinks for purchase during the day. Commemorative 250th anniversary souvenirs will also be offered for sale.

Ranger and park volunteer guided tours of the lighthouse tower will start at 12 p.m. to 4:30 pm on a first-come, first-served basis (children must be 48-inches tall to climb the lighthouse). Parking and attending the event is free, and will take place rain or shine.

While the celebration event will highlight the first lighting of Sandy Hook Lighthouse in 1764, a number of Revolutionary War re-enactors will also be at the event to interpret the lighthouse's role in the American Revolution. During that conflict the British Army, navy, and loyalists turned the lighthouse into a fort, guarded it, and fought off several attacks on it by American forces. The re-enactors will present musket and cannon firing demonstrations and musket drills for children on Fort Hancock's main parade ground during the afternoon hours. Other re-enactors will exhibit several 18th Century reproduction bateau trading boats on the bayside beach opposite the Guardian Park picnic area located at the south end of Fort Hancock.



Sandy Hook Lighthouse has literally stood "the test of time" to outlast ten other Colonial Era lighthouses built in the thirteen colonies to become the oldest standing, and oldest operating lighthouse in the United States. Lighthouses were important to the commercial growth of the colonies. Sandy Hook's light was built because merchant ships were being shipwrecked at, or near Sandy Hook as they attempted to sail into the New York harbor. A lottery held in New York City helped to fund the buying of four acres at the tip of Sandy Hook, and start construction of the lighthouse tower in 1762. By the end of that year the money ran out. The merchants held another lottery to raise the money to complete the tower, along with a keeper's house.

The lighthouse was lighted for the first time on the night of June 11, 1764, and a New York newspaper noted that "it is judged to be masterly finished."

Please join us in celebrating this milestone anniversary!

Continuing Programs

Sandy Hook Lighthouse and 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.
Tours are first-come, first-served. Visitors 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, the rotating art exhibit, and visit the gift shop. Grounds and video in adjacent barn are always open. Groups must make advance reservations. Call (732) 872 – 5970.

Battery Potter

Saturdays, June 21 – August 30
1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Explore and tour Sandy Hook's oldest gun battery, and the first concrete gun battery ever built, completed in 1895.

Mortar Battery

Sundays, June 22 – August 31
1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
The 1890 Sandy Hook Mortar Battery was among the first Endicott-style concrete gun batteries built on Sandy Hook, as part of New York Harbor defense against enemy attack from the sea.

Nike Missile Radar Site

Horseshoe Cove, Parking Lot L
12 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Saturdays, June 7 & 14 , July 12 & 26 , August 2 & 23
Sundays, June 22 & 29, July 20, August 10
Guided tours of the Integrated Fire Control (IFC) will allow you to see the inner workings of the facility. While taking a guided tour of this one-time top secret missile site, you will have the opportunity to meet and talk with some of the veterans who worked on the Cold War era Nike Air Defense System.

Beach Concerts

Parking Lot LOT E
Wednesdays, 6 p.m.
Enjoy the popular and free summer concert series, which will take place throughout the summer, courtesy of the Sandy Hook Foundation. Remember: beach parking fees are in effect until 5 p.m. Call (732) 291 – 7733 or sandyhookfoundation.org for weather updates, cancellations are made by 2p.m. All shows are weather permitting.

June 18: After the Reign (Country)
June 25: The Carl Gentry Band (Classic Rock)
July 2: British Invasion Tribute (Beatles Tribute)
July 9: Brian Kirk and the Jirks (Party Rock)
July 16: Tom McLoone and the Shirlies (Americana)
July 23: Riptide/ The Haven (Rock and Roll); Cover Band: Harpers Fellow @5:30pm
July 30: Motor City Review (Motown)
August 6: Pat Guadagno and Candle Brothers (Rock)
August 13: JoBonnano and the Godsons of Soul (Rock and R&B)
August 20: Rain Date

Continuing Weekday Programs

Monday

Canoe Program

Meet at Sandy Hook Visitor Center
June 30 – August 25
9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Take a two-mile morning paddle to explore Sandy Hook bay from an ideal vantage point—the water itself. Rangers guide you on a two and a half hour tour of the bayside waters and Skeleton Hill Island. Free, call (732) 872 – 5970 to reserve.

What's With The ♥?

Our hikes, and paddles are great ways to get your heart going,. Just look for the ♥ next to the program listing for programs that require walks of a mile or more, or moderate exertion.

Seining at Horseshoe Cove

Horseshoe Cove
June 30 – August 25
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.

Tuesday

Junior Ranger

For kids, ages 7 – 12.
See Junior Ranger section for rotating schedule of programs.

Crustacean of the Day

Beach Area E
July 1 – August 26
2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Park rangers reveal fun facts and provide a hands-on crustacean pool to share with beachgoers of all ages. Drop in at Beach Area E to observe and handle creatures native to Sandy Hook Bay.

Wednesday

Canoe program

Meet at Visitor Center
July 2 – August 27
9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Take a two-mile morning paddle to explore Sandy Hook bay from an ideal vantage point—the water itself. Rangers guide you on a two and a half hour tour of the bayside waters and Skeleton Hill Island. Call (732) 872 – 5970 to reserve.

Junior Jr. Ranger

For kids, 4 – 6 years old.
See Junior Jr. Ranger section for rotating schedule of programs.

Thursday

Seining at Horseshoe Cove

Horseshoe Cove
July 2 – August 27
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Join our ranger staff for some seining to explore hands-on what creatures are lurking just beneath the surface of Sandy Hook Bay.

Friday

Canoe Program
Meet at Visitor Center
June 27 – August 29
9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Take a two-mile morning paddle to explore Sandy Hook bay from an ideal vantage point—the water itself. Rangers guide you on a two and a half hour tour of the bayside waters and Skeleton Hill Island. Call (732) 872 – 5970 to reserve.

Seining at Horseshoe Cove
Horseshoe Cove
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Crustacean of the Day
Beach Area E
June 27 – August 29
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Park rangers reveal fun facts and provide a hands-on crustacean pool to share with beachgoers of all ages. Drop in at Beach Area E to observe and handle creatures native to Sandy Hook Bay

Bunker of the Week
July 3 – August 29
7 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Look at the Bunker of the Week section for meeting place and name of destination.

30th NPS All-Women Lifeguard Tournament
Sandy Hook
Wednesday, July 30
9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Come cheer on the women of Gateway, in this day – long competition. The tournament provides a look into the effort needed to become one of the outstanding role models for other women, who may be considering surf lifeguard work.

Special Park and Cooperator Programs

June

Art Exhibit: Celebrating the Sandy Hook Lighthouse 250th Birthday (June 11, 1764)
Lighthouse Keepers Quarters
June, July, and August
Learn about some of the former lighthouse keepers and lighthouse assistant keepers, and how the lighthouse has stood the test of time since 1764.

Stars of Sandy Hook
Parking Lot E Beach Plaza
Saturday, June 7
8:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.
Join a park ranger and the Amateur Astronomers Association to view planets Mars and Saturn, and the beautiful quarter moon with the craters in shadow. Bring binoculars and/or telescopes.

Night Hike on the Beach♥
LOT B Beach Plaza
Thursday, June 12
7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Explore various parts of Sandy Hook's ecosystem and history with this summer's series of night hikes. This night's one mile hike features bayside exploration during the high season for horseshoe crab sightings. Don't forget to wear good sand walking shoes and bug repellent. Free, call (732) 872-5970 to make reservations. 1 mile

Campfire on the Beach
Parking Lot E (Southern Chute)
Friday, June 13
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! Free. Call (732) 872-5970 for more information.

American Littoral Society – Summer Solstice Walk on Sandy Hook♥
Guardian Park
Saturday, June 21
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Take a two mile stroll on the Hook on the longest day of the year. Society naturalists will identify coastal flora and fauna, as well as the history of Sandy Hook. A special tour inside a gun battery may be included. Cost: Free, call (732) 291 – 0055 to reserve. 2 miles

Monmouth County Audubon Society Bird Walk♥
Spermaceti Cove U.S. Life Saving Station Parking Lot (between Lot D and Lot E)
Thursday, June 26
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Join us for an evening bird walk along the beach to view nesting piping plovers, and walk along the bayside for terns, herons, and egrets. Bring binoculars, insect repellant, and wear comfortable shoes. Free. 2 miles

Battery Gunnison / New Peck Preserved
Saturday, June 28
12 p.m. – 6 p.m.
The Army Ground Forces Association is a volunteer group in WWII 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 June 1943 at Fort Hancock.

Fort Hancock Bike Tour♥
Sunday, June 29
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Ferry Landing
Bicycle with a ranger on a guided tour, highlighting the batteries, historic structures, and beaches of Sandy Hook. Bring a bike helmet. Call (732) 872-5970 for reservations. 3 miles

July

Fort Hancock Bike Tour♥

Ferry Landing
Saturday, July 5
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.
Join a ranger on a bike tour of Sandy Hook. Highlights include the batteries, historic structures and beaches. Bring a helmet, and call (732) 872 – 5970 to reserve. 3 miles

American Littoral Society – Sunset Seining

Building No. 18
Tuesday, July 8
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
After a short talk on the Society's front porch, head over to Horseshoe Cove on Sandy Hook Bay for a seining adventure. Participants are invited to pull a 40 foot seine net through the bay, and learn about the fish and other critters caught in the net. Wear comfortable clothing and water shoes. Cost: $5 per person, free for members. Call (732) 291 – 0055 for more information and to reserve.

American Littoral Society – Underwater Robotics

Officers Row, Building 18
Thursday, July 10
9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Embark on an underwater adventure using remotely operated vehicles (ROV). Students ages 10 and up will work in teams to build an underwater robot. Using products found at many local hardware stores, we will create fully functioning robots. Student will learn many concepts including buoyancy, circuitry, waterproofing, propulsion, and tool safety. Afterwards, the teams will test out the robots in Sandy Hook bay. Students need to bring a lunch. Cost: $50 for members, $65 for nonmembers. Call 732-291-0055 for more information and to reserve.

Night Hike- Full Buck Moon♥

Parking Lot E
Saturday, July 12
7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Explore various parts of Sandy Hook's ecosystem during the full buck moon. At this time of year, is when bucks begin to grow new antlers. This night hike features night seining, which is always an interesting adventure. Bring a flashlight, bug repellant, and wear shoes you can get wet. Free, but reservations required. Call (732) 872-5970. 1 mile

Battery Gunnison/New Peck Restored

Wednesday – Saturday
July 16 – 19
12 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Army Ground Forces Association is a volunteer group in WWII era uniform performing restoration projects and interpreting Battery Gunnison/New Peck. Visitors are invited to stop by to learn more about the battery's role in protecting NY Harbor during July 1943.

Campfire on the Beach

Parking Lot E, (Southern Chute)
Friday, July 18
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! Free. Call (732) 872-5970 for more information.

American Littoral Society – Coastal Explorer

Officers Row, Building 18
Thursday, July 24
9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
During this one day program, kids entering grades 1-4, will join Society educators for a day of seining and shell collecting. Afterwards we will return to Littoral Society headquarters for coastal arts and crafts. Students should bring lunch and a change of clothes. Cost: $15 for members, $25 for nonmembers. Call (732) 291-0055 for more information and to reserve.

Monmouth County Audubon Society Bird Walk

Spermaceti Cove U.S. Life Saving Station Parking Lot (between Parking Lots D and E)
Thursday, July 24
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Look for piping plover, and common and least tern along the shore of Sandy Hook. Bring binoculars, insect repellant, and wear comfortable shoes. Free. ♥ 2 miles

American Littoral Society – Littoral Learners

Officers Row, Building 18
Friday, July 25
9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
During this advanced one day program, students entering grades 5-8 will get an in depth introduction to marine science. We will learn the natural history of the diverse habitats of Sandy Hook, including maritime forest, beach, and bay. Students will help pull our 40 foot seine net through the bay and examine the marine life we catch. Students should bring lunch and a change of clothes. Cost: $15 for members, $25 for nonmembers. Call (732) 291-0055 for more information and to reserve.

Holly Forest Night Prowl♥

Parking Lot E
Saturday, July 26
7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Explore Sandy Hook's Holly Forest on this sensory walk led by a ranger. Family fun for everyone! 1 mile

American Littoral Society – Sunset Seining

Building No. 18
Tuesday, July 29
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
After a short talk on the Society's front porch, head over to Horseshoe Cove on Sandy Hook Bay for a seining adventure. Participants are invited to pull a 40 foot seine net through the bay, and learn about the fish and other critters caught in the net. Wear comfortable clothing and water shoes. Cost: $5 per person, free for members. Call (732) 291 – 0055 for more information and to reserve.

American Littoral Society – Coastal Explorer
Officers Row, Building 18
Thursday, July 31
9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
During this one day program, kids entering grades 1-4, will join Society educators for a day of seining and shell collecting. Afterwards we will return to Littoral Society headquarters for coastal arts and crafts. Students should bring lunch and a change of clothes. Cost: $15 for members, $25 for nonmembers. Call (732) 291-0055 to reserve.

August

American Littoral Society – Littoral Learners
Officers Row, Building 18
Friday, August 1
9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
During this advanced one day program, students entering grades 5-8 will get an in depth introduction to marine science. We will learn the natural history of the diverse habitats of Sandy Hook, including maritime forest, beach, and bay. Students will help pull our 40 foot seine net through the bay and examine the marine life we catch. Students need to bring lunch and a change of clothes. Cost: $15 for members, $25 for nonmembers. Call (732) 291-0055 to reserve.

American Littoral Society – Underwater Robotics
Officers Row, Building 18
Wednesday, August 6
9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Embark on an underwater adventure using remotely operated vehicles (ROV). Students ages 10 and up will work in teams to build an underwater robot. Using products found at many local hardware stores, we will create fully functioning robots. Student will learn many concepts including buoyancy, circuitry, waterproofing, propulsion, and tool safety. Afterwards, the teams will test out the robots in Sandy Hook bay. Students should bring a lunch. Cost: $50 for members, $65 for nonmembers. Call (732) 291-0055 to reserve.

American Littoral Society – Coastal Explorer
Officers Row, Building 18
Thursday, August 7
9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
During this one day program, kids entering grades 1-4, will join Society educators for a day of seining and shell collecting. Afterwards we will return to Littoral Society headquarters for coastal arts and crafts. Students should bring lunch and a change of clothes. Cost: $15 for members, $25 for nonmembers. Call (732) 291-0055 to reserve.

American Littoral Society – Littoral Learners
Officers Row, Building 18
Friday, August 8
9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
During this advanced one day program, students entering grades 5-8 will get an in depth introduction to marine science. We will learn the natural history of the diverse habitats of Sandy Hook, including maritime forest, beach, and bay. Students will help pull our 40 foot seine net through the bay and examine the marine life we catch. Students need to bring lunch and a change of clothes. Cost: $15 for members, $25 for nonmembers. Call (732) 291-0055 for more information and to reserve.

Campfire on the Beach
Parking Lot E (southern chute)
Thursday, August 8
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! Free. Call (732) 872-5970 for more information.

Battery Gunnison / New Peck Preserved
Saturday, August 9
12 p.m. - 6 p.m.
The Army Ground Forces Association is a volunteer group in WWII 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 August 1943 at Fort Hancock.

Night Hike♥
Parking Lot E – Beach Plaza
Saturday, August 9
7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Explore various parts of Sandy Hook's ecosystem. This night hike is the *Ranger's Choice Hike*, so the question is, "Are you feeling adventurous?" Bring a flashlight, bug repellant, and shoes you can get wet. Free, call (732) 872-5970 to reserve. 1 mile

American Littoral Society – Sunset Seining
Officers Row, Building 18
Tuesday, August 12
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
After a short talk on the Society's front porch, head over to Horseshoe Cove on Sandy Hook Bay for a seining adventure. Participants are invited to pull a 40 foot seine net through the bay, and learn about the fish and other critters caught in the net. Wear comfortable clothing and water shoes. Cost: $5 per person, free for members. Call (732) 291-0055 to reserve.

American Littoral Society – Kids Surf Fishing Clinic
Officers Row, Building 18
Wednesday, August 13
10 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Join Society staff for a day of surf fishing and instruction on the beach. Instruction will cover the basics of casting, knot tying, lure/bait selection, and "reading" a beach. All skill levels will be accommodated. Rods, reels and tackle will be provided. Kids ages 10 and up can participate and need to bring a lunch. Cost: $20 for members, $35 for nonmembers. Call (732) 291-0055 for more information.

American Littoral Society – Coastal Explorer

Officers Row, Building 18
Thursday, August 14
9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
During this one day program, kids entering grades 1-4, will join Society educators for a day of seining and shell collecting. Afterwards we will return to Littoral Society headquarters for coastal arts and crafts. Students should bring lunch and a change of clothes. Cost: $15 for members, $25 for nonmembers. Call (732) 291-0055 to reserve.

American Littoral Society – Littoral Learners

Officers Row, Building 18
Friday, August 15
9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
During this advanced one day program, students entering grades 5-8 will get an in depth introduction to marine science. We will learn the natural history of the diverse habitats of Sandy Hook, including maritime forest, beach, and bay. Students will help pull our 40 foot seine net through the bay and examine the marine life we catch. Students need to bring lunch and a change of clothes. Cost: $15 for members, $25 for nonmembers. Call (732) 291-0055 to reserve.

Stars of Sandy Hook

Parking Lot E
Saturday, August 16
8 p.m. – 10 p.m.
Join a park ranger and the Amateur Astronomy Association on the beach to view the night sky. Bring a telescope and bug repellant.

Fort Hancock Bike Tour♥

Ferry Landing
Sunday, August 17
5 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Bicycle with a ranger on a guided tour highlighting the batteries, historic structures and beaches of Sandy Hook. Bring a helmet and call (732) 872 – 5970 to make reservations. 3 miles

American Littoral Society – Coastal Explorer

Officers Row, Building 18
Thursday, August 21
9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
During this one day program, kids entering grades 1-4, will join Society educators for a day of seining and shell collecting. Afterwards we will return to Littoral Society headquarters for coastal arts and crafts. Students should bring lunch and a change of clothes. Cost: $15 for members, $25 for nonmembers. Call (732) 291-0055 to reserve.

Monmouth County Audubon Society Bird Walk♥

Spermaceti Cove U.S. Life Saving Station Parking Lot (between LOT D and LOT E)
Thursday, August 21
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Join us for an evening bird walk to look for migrating shore birds. Bring binoculars, insect repellant, and wear comfortable shoes. Free. 2 miles

American Littoral Society – Littoral Learners

Officers Row, Building 18
Friday, August 22
9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
During this advanced one day program, students entering grades 5-8 will get an in depth introduction to marine science. We will learn the natural history of the diverse habitats of Sandy Hook, including maritime forest, beach, and bay. Students will help pull our 40 foot seine net through the bay and examine the marine life we catch. Students need to bring lunch and a change of clothes. Cost: $15 for members, $25 for nonmembers. Call (732) 291 – 0055 to reserve.

American Littoral Society – Sunset Seining

Officers Row, Building 18
Tuesday, August 26
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
After a short talk on the Society's front porch, head over to Horseshoe Cove on Sandy Hook Bay for a seining adventure. Participants are invited to pull a 40 foot seine net through the bay, and learn about the fish and other critters caught in the net. Wear comfortable clothing and water shoes. Cost: $5 per person, free for members. Call (732) 291-0055 for more information and to reserve.

Campfire on the Beach

Parking Lot E (southern chute)
Friday, August 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! Free. Call (732) 872 – 5970 for more information.

American Littoral Society – Shore Birds and Wild Edibles

Parking Lot M
Saturday, August 30
9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Join Littoral Society naturalists for a hike down a sandy path to one of the least visited beaches at Sandy Hook. Along the way we will identify some of the Hook's edible plants that were an important food source for the early settlers and Native Americans that once inhabited this area. Once at the tip of Sandy Hook, there will be opportunity to observe shore birds feeding along the mud flats. Bring binoculars, comfortable walking shoes, and lots of sunscreen. Cost: $5 per person, free for member families. Call (732) 291 – 0055 to reserve.

Junior Ranger Programs

Ages 7 – 12 (recommended)
The program is being offered Tuesdays between June, July and August 2014. Parents must accompany their children for the duration of the programs. All programs are free, but reservations are required. Call (732) 872-5970 to reserve.

Junior Ranger Horseshoe Crab

Parking Lot B
Tuesday, June 24
6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Find, see and feel living fossils from the age of dinosaurs that are still swimming along the shores today, and aid the survival of the horseshoe crab by hands-on participation in "Horseshoe Crab Rehab."

Junior Ranger Tree Scientist

Tuesday, July 8
10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Junior Ranger Firefighter

Fire Station Number 2
(Across the street from Sandy Hook Lighthouse)
Tuesday, July 15
10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Participants will learn hands-on how fires have been extinguished in the past, and how fires are fought now by National Park Service Firefighters at Sandy Hook. Learn about different historic and modern firefighting equipment, and learn how to put out imaginary fires with a real fire hose.

Junior Ranger Marine Invader

Horseshoe Cove
Tuesday, July 22
10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
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. Parents must stay with their children for the duration of the program: Driving to 2 sites within the park is necessary.

Junior Ranger Pirate♥

US Life-Saving Station Parking Lot (across from Spermaceti Cove)
Tuesday, July 29
10 a.m. – 11:30 a.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 treasure - "pirate booty" - around a historic area of Sandy Hook (Captain Kidds Meadow). Pirate attire, accents, and attitude "Aaaargh" required! 1 mile

Junior Ranger Lene – Lenape Scavenger Hunt

North Beach Pavilion
Tuesday, August 5
10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Learn about the local Lene – Lenape Indian tribe and try your hand at some traditional Lenape craftsmanship and games.

Junior Ranger Fisherman

Horseshoe Cove
Tuesday, August 19
10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Participants will seine Sandy Hook Bay and learn about the native and non-native species thriving in this salt water habitat. Wear water shoes and clothes you don't mind getting wet, and bring sunscreen.

Junior Ranger Lighthouse Keeper

Sandy Hook Lighthouse
Tuesday, August 26
10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Climb the lighthouse and learn what it was like to be a lighthouse keeper during the 18th Century. Must be 48 inches or taller to climb the lighthouse.

Junior Jr. Ranger Programs: For kids ages 4 – 6

Junior Jr. Ranger is a program designed for 4 – 6 year olds to learn about habitats and history on Sandy Hook. The program is being offered from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. weekly on Wednesdays between June 25 and August 20. Children will learn through hikes, walks, and demonstrations. Parents are required to accompany their children for the entire program. Space is limited; call (732) 872 – 5970 to reserve.

June 25: Splishy, Splashy, Squishy: Let's go seining! Meet at Horseshoe Cove.

July 2: Firefighting for "Little Squirts," Meet at Fire Station Number 2 (across the street from the Sandy Hook Lighthouse).

July 9: Surf, Sand, and Shells: Beach Habitats and Sandcasting. Meet at Guardian Park

July 16: Animal Tracking: Investigate Animal Signs and Animal Tracks. Meet at Guardian Park

July 23: Creepy Crawlies & Waterbabies: Swimming Insects. Meet at Guardian Park

July 30: Cool Animal Adaptations. Meet at Guardian Park

August 6: Terrapin vs. Turtle. Meet at Horseshoe Cove

August 13: Explore a Lighthouse, Then Build Your Own Lighthouse. Meet at Sandy Hook Lighthouse

August 20: Splishy, Splashy, Squishy: Let's Go Seining! Meet at Horseshoe Cove

Bunker of the Week

Sunday, Tuesday or Wednesday, July and August
7 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Tour a different battery every week with the park historian and learn about its significance in American Coastal Harbor Defense. Bring a flashlight, insect repellant and wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes.

July 6 & 9: Nine Gun Battery; Meet at K LOT

July 13: Battery Potter; Meet at Sandy Hook Lighthouse

July 20 & 23: Battery Mills; Meet at Guardian Park

July 27: Mortar Battery; Meet at Sandy Hook Lighthouse

August 3 & 5: Battery Granger; Meet at Sandy Hook Lighthouse

August 10: Nine Gun; Meet at K LOT

August 17 & 19: Battery Arrowsmith; Meet at Guardian Park

August 24: Battery Peck; Meet at K LOT

August 31: Battery Gunnison; Meet at Battery Gunnison Beach Plaza

30th NPS All-Women Lifeguard Tournament

Sandy Hook
Wednesday, July 30
9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Come cheer on the women of Gateway, in this day – long competition. The tournament provides a look into the effort needed to become one of the outstanding role models for other women, who may be considering surf lifeguard work.