

# Great Sand Dunes

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Great Sand Dunes National Park  
and Preserve



## Free Ranger Programs August 14 – August 20, 2016

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### Sunday, August 14

**1:00 pm Discovery Activity** – Discover how the dunes were formed and other fascinating aspects of the park and preserve. Visitor Center, 25 minutes

**3:30 pm Afternoon Program – “Art for All Ages”** - Come sketch the dunes with a Ranger-artist and learn about the unique environment surrounding you! Free paper and chalk provided. Visitor Center, 30 minutes

**8:45 pm Evening Program – “A Ranger’s Story”** Come hear about the adventures and experiences of one National Park Ranger from the Mississippi River to the Medano. Weather permitting. Flashlights and jackets suggested. Brief telescope viewing will take place afterwards, weather permitting. Amphitheater, 45 minutes

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### Monday, August 15

**3:30 pm Afternoon Program – "Rx: Nature Hike"** - Hike with a ranger along the Montville Trail to learn about the health benefits of being in nature, identify edible plants, and participate in nature journaling. Montville Nature Trailhead, 1 hour

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### Tuesday, August 16

**1:00 pm Discovery Activity** – Discover how the dunes were formed and other fascinating aspects of the park and preserve. Visitor Center, 25 minutes

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### Wednesday, August 17

**1:00 pm Discovery Activity** – Discover how the dunes were formed and other fascinating aspects of the park and preserve. Visitor Center, 25 minutes

**3:30pm Afternoon Program - "Rx: Nature Hike"** - Hike with a ranger along the Montville Trail to learn about the health benefits of being in nature, identify edible plants, and participate in nature journaling. Montville Nature Trailhead, 1 hour

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### Thursday, August 18

**1:00 pm Discovery Activity** – Discover how the dunes were formed and other fascinating aspects of the park and preserve. Visitor Center, 25 minutes

**3:30 pm Afternoon Program – “Art for All Ages”** - Come sketch the dunes with a Ranger-artist and learn about the unique environment surrounding you! Free paper and chalk provided. Visitor Center, 30 minutes

**8:45 pm Evening Program - "Night Skies and our National Parks"** - For millenia humans have gazed upon the night sky, forging a unique connection to our cosmos. Join a ranger to become inspired by our enduring resource, the night sky! Telescope viewing will take place after the program; weather permitting. Amphitheater, 45 minutes

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### Friday, August 19

**3:30 pm Afternoon Program – “Better Home Sand Gardens”** - Come explore the dunes on a Ranger hike and learn about the extreme plants and animals which share such a unique environment. Dunes Lot, 30 minutes

**7:30 pm Sunset Program – “The Wild West”** - Discover a story of adventure that can only be found in the West with a diverse set of characters. From the geologic story to the cultural history, the story is dynamic. Listen to how the dunes were formed and what people have had adventures in the sand. You are invited to not only listen to the story but be a part of the adventure in this sunset hike out into the dunes. Dunes Lot, 45 minutes

**8:45 pm Evening Program - “Exploring the Milky Way”** – Come learn about the size structure and contents of our home galaxy, as well as the history and ongoing research of peoples’ understanding of our place in the universe. Weather permitting; a telescope viewing will take place afterwards. Amphitheater, 45 minutes

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### Saturday, August 20

**3:30 pm Afternoon Program – “Montville Nature Hike”** - Find your inner park ranger on this short, interactive hike. Learn about the diverse and unique habitats of the park and preserve. Learn about some of the common plants and animals that call this amazing place home. Great for all ages! Montville Nature Trail, 45 minutes.

**8:45 pm Evening Program - “The Park after Dark”** - Half the park is after dark! Discover the beautiful secrets of owls, nocturnal animals, stars, planets, galaxies, our moon, and meteors. Touch real pieces of the Moon and Mars! Brief constellation tour with laser pointer and telescope afterward, weather permitting. Amphitheater, 45 minutes

*All programs are free and open to the public. More information: [www.nps.gov/grsa](http://www.nps.gov/grsa) (719) 378-6395*