



Free Ranger Programs June 7 – June 11, 2016

Tuesday, June 7

1:00 pm Discovery Activity - Find your inner Junior Park Ranger on this short hike to find out about the different habitats which make the Great Sand Dunes unique. You will collect soil samples and identify plants to find out what habitat you are visiting. This program is geared for kids 5 to 13 and will help them finish their Junior Ranger books. Visitor Center Sand Sheet Loop, 30 minutes.

Wednesday, June 8

1:00 pm Discovery Activity - "The Singing Sands" - The Great Sand Dunes are a symphony of geological and animal sounds! Discover how the Great Sand Dunes were formed while making the wild sounds found in the park. Fun for all ages! Visitor Center, 20 minutes.

Thursday, June 9

1:00 pm Discovery Activity - Find your inner Junior Park Ranger on this short hike to find out about the different habitats which make the Great Sand Dunes unique. You will collect soil samples and identify plants to find out what habitat you are visiting. This program is geared for kids 5 to 13 and will help them finish their Junior Ranger books. Visitor Center Sand Sheet Loop, 30 minutes.

3:30 pm Afternoon Nature Hike - Attend a ranger-led hike along the Montville Nature Trail. Topics include the benefits of spending time in nature, edible plants along the trail, and nature journaling at a beautiful overlook of the dunefield. Montville Nature Trailhead, 60 minutes.

8:45 pm Evening Program - "The Sandy West" - Join a park ranger on a road trip adventure across the country as we discover amazing dune systems and recreational opportunities located all around the Western United States! Amphitheater, 45 minutes.

Friday, June 10

1:00 pm Special Program – Join Dr. James Zimbelman from the Smithsonian Institute for a discussion on sand dunes on Earth and Mars, including some fascinating new photos of Mars! Visitor Center, 30 minutes

8:45pm Evening Program – "Dunes, Stars, and Mars"- Sand dunes like the unique formations at Great Sand Dunes aren't only found on this planet. . . but on Mars too! Come arouse your curiosity with the wonder of interplanetary dunes and their place among the stars. Telescope viewing will take place at end of program, weather permitting. Amphitheater, 45 minutes.

Saturday, June 11

3:30 pm Afternoon Program – "Dunes Mystery" - Come discover the powerful forces which created the dunes and surrounding pristine environment that stands alone in mystery. Visitor Center, 30 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! Amphitheater, 35 minutes. Brief constellation tour with laser pointer afterward, weather permitting.