

# Great Sand Dunes

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Great Sand Dunes  
National Park and Preserve



## Artist in Residence Program



Historically, artists have always been at the forefront of interpreting America's natural beauty to the public, often prompting local, state, and the federal government to protect many of our nation's special places. The Great Sand Dunes landscape - with its wild ecological contrasts from verdant wetlands to dunes to rugged alpine peaks - has been a unique inspiration for generations of artists. Today's artists use contemporary techniques and expressive new media to interpret our nation's natural and cultural heritage, for this and future generations.

### Overview

The opportunity to live and work in Great Sand Dunes NPP benefits the selected professional artist, and those who will enjoy their artwork today and in future generations.

The Artist-in Residence program at Great Sand Dunes NPP offers professional visual artists (fine art painters or sculptors, fine art photographers\* or other fine art visual media) the opportunity to spend two weeks in a private efficiency apartment provided by the National Park Service, near the main visitor area of the park. (If preferred, RV/motor home parking with hook-ups, in the park housing area or campground, may be available).

*\* Fine art photography does not include basic documentary work or scenic postcard and calendar type images. Photographs submitted should express a unique creative vision, and be fine art in presentation and style.*



### New Program in 2009

2009 is the first year of Great Sand Dunes' Artist in Residence program.

Two 2-week residencies will be offered:

- September 20 - October 3
- October 4 - October 17

### Outcomes of a Residency

1. The willingness to share your inspiration with others is a central tenet of the Artist in Residence Program. The resident artist shall present a minimum of two public programs (one per week) during the residency. These presentations shall be based on the artist's work, experiences, and interests, and may include art workshops in your medium, artist demonstrations, art program in a local school, etc. Your presentations should be developed in consultation with park staff, and should be appropriate for general park audiences.



2. The participating artist may opt to donate an original work representative of his or her medium which embodies the values of Great Sand Dunes' interpretive themes (see below). Any donated artwork must be received within one year of the residency. All expenses for materials and for delivery of the artwork to the park shall be the responsibility of the artist.

3. Artists shall permit park staff to photograph artwork created during the residency, and programs given during the residency. The artist shall sign a photo release to the National Park Service for use of images of the artwork from the residency, and images of activities associated with the residency. Donated artwork and/or associated images will not be used for commercial purposes, but may be used for education or interpretation by the National Park Service or Western National Parks Association.

4. The artist will exhibit two pieces of work during one of the annual fine art shows at the Visitor Center.

## Interpretive Themes

The Artist-in-Residence Program is designed to interpret the park and preserve's many natural and cultural resources through the unique creative vision of each artist chosen. The park's most important interpretive themes have been defined to help focus interpretive efforts:

A. The unexpected combination of massive dunes surrounded by alpine peaks, a desert valley, and creeks flowing on the surface of the sand makes Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve a unique landscape that inspires awe, mystery, and wonder.

B. Although the active dunefield appears stark and empty, Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve is actually a rich and complex environment where many different plants and animals live in a variety of distinct natural communities.

C. The tall dunes and the life they support are the most visible indicators of the health of the natural system that extends beyond park boundaries. To protect the ecological health of the park, the National Park Service must partner with the larger community.

D. Just as human survival is dependent upon water, this complex, dynamic dune system, with its distinctive geological and biological character, is dependent on the area's unusual, fragile, and near-pristine water system for its continued existence.

E. The same physical characteristics that influenced the formation of the sand dunes created a cultural crossroad, resulting in a landscape of special significance to many people over thousands of years.

F. The wilderness areas within Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve offer spacious relief from urban America, exceptional solitude and quiet, and a remarkably unspoiled day and night sky.

## How to Apply

### Required:

- Volunteer Application for Natural Resource Agencies (Form # OF301\_06\_07.pdf)  
Please indicate on this form which of the two residencies you prefer.

### Requested information:

- Statement of Purpose: Please explain what you hope to accomplish during your residency at Great Sand Dunes, how the stay will contribute to your artistic development, how you will incorporate at least one of the park's interpretive themes in your work, and what you will contribute to benefit the park. (No more than one page).

- List of exhibitions and/or teaching experiences

- Samples of works (do not send originals): Send transparencies or digital files (.jpg preferable) of 6 different images. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope, if you would like transparency samples returned to you.



Submit the items and information via mail, email, and/or fax. Any application with incomplete or excessive materials will not be considered.

### Mail:

Great Sand Dunes NPP  
Artist in Residence Program  
Visitor Center  
11999 State Highway 150  
Mosca, Colorado 81146

### Email:

patrick\_myers@nps.gov

### Fax:

719-378-6340

## Calendar for 2009 season

Entries will be accepted with postmarks dated on or before February 28, 2009 (or accepted via email by that date). Selectees will be notified by March 10, 2009.

Applications postmarked (or received via email or fax) after this date will not be considered.

## Selection Process

Selection is based on artistic merit as demonstrated by the examples submitted, the ideas expressed in the statement of purpose, the feasibility and potential public interest of proposed public programs, and the willingness to accept the conditions of the national park residency opportunity. A panel of National Park Service and Western National Parks Association representatives chooses the artists and alternates.