



White Sands National Monument Events February 2015



Sunset Strolls



Sunset strolls are a great way to end your day. Enjoy a leisurely one-hour ranger-guided walk through sand dunes and learn about the geology, plants, and animals of this unique area. Program starts at the sign along Dunes Drive about five miles from the visitor center. Programs are offered daily. Program is free; monument entrance fees apply.**

*4:45 pm January 31—February 20

*5:00 pm February 21—March 7

Lake Lucero Tour



Have you ever wondered how the white sands formed? Take a tour to Lake Lucero with a ranger and learn about the formation of the sands and the special plants and animals that live in and around the dunes. Program fee: \$8.00 per adult (16 years and older), \$4.00 for children (15 years and younger) Reservations can be made one month in advance at www.nps.gov/whsa. All Lake Lucero tour reservations must be made through the website.

*2 pm Saturday, February 28th

Step into the Past Giants from the Past: Untold Secrets of the White Sands

Long before the famous white gypsum dunes formed, it was cooler and wetter in the Tularosa Basin, and the animals were much bigger. Mammoth, ancient camels, dire wolves, American lions, and giant ground sloths roamed the muddy shores of ancient Lake Otero leaving behind footprints. These muddy clues provide a glimpse of the past and help scientists today learn about the mighty mammals that once ruled the basin. You are invited to learn about these Ice Age giants and see the traces they left behind. Meet in the visitor center theater. Program is free.

*1 pm Saturday, March 7

Skins and Skulls



Join a ranger in the visitor center courtyard for a 20-minute talk about the amazing animals of White Sands. Rangers will have pelts, skulls, and other props to provide you an up-close look and feel of the elusive wildlife of White Sands. Program is free.

*3:00 pm weekends only

Tent Talks



Have you ever wondered where all this gypsum came from? Or how animals survive in this harsh environment? Join a ranger under the tent on the Innerdune Boardwalk for a 20-minute program that highlights some of the lesser-known stories about White Sands National Monument. Monument entrance fees apply; program is free.

*10:00 am weekends only

Visitor Center Hours *9:00 am–5:00 pm January 5—March 7

Monument Hours *7:00 am–6:00 pm November 2—February 20, 2015

*7:00 am–6:30 pm February 21, 2015—March 7

Dunes Drive will close to inbound traffic at one hour before the monument will close. The Highway 70 Gate and restrooms will close at the stated monument closing time.