



## White Sands National Monument Events September 2011

### Full Moon Hike

Have you ever wondered what the dunes look like under the glow of the moon? Join a ranger for a full moon hike and see firsthand the dunes in a whole new light. Reservations are required and can only be made via our website ([www.nps.gov/whsa](http://www.nps.gov/whsa)). Reservations will be accepted starting two weeks in advance of the scheduled hike, and hike is limited to 40 participants. Program is free; monument entrance fees apply.

\*7:15 pm Monday, September 12

### Full Moon Night Connie Dover & Skip Gorman

Cowboy singer/musician Skip Gorman and Celtic singer and poet Connie Dover will bring together their down-deep, heartfelt interpretations of the traditional music of the American West, Ireland, and Scotland under the brilliant light of the full moon. Program will be held in monument's amphitheater and is free. Monument entrance fees apply: \$3.00 per person 16 years and older.

\*7:30 pm Tuesday, September 13

### Star Party

Explore the night sky with amateur astronomers from the Alamogordo Astronomy Club. Join us for a star talk about the celestial wonders as seen from the dark skies of White Sands followed by viewing these wonders through telescopes. Program will be held in monument's amphitheater and is free. Monument entrance fees apply: \$3.00 per person 16 years and older.

\*7:30–9:30 pm Saturday, September 24; the monument will close at 10 pm this evening

### 20th Annual White Sands Balloon Invitational

Enjoy the sight of colorful hot air balloons launching from the snow-white gypsum dunes and join us for the 20th Annual White Sands Balloon Invitational. The event begins right at sunrise and lasts until the balloons come down, usually 3 hours later. Balloons launch in the heart of the dunes. Monument entrance fees apply: \$3.00 per person 16 years and older. This event is sponsored by the Alamogordo Chamber of Commerce. For more information, visit: <http://www.white-sands-new-mexico.com>.

\*Sunrise Saturday, September 17 and Sunday, September 18

### 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. No charge for the program. A \$3.00 per person (16 years and older) entrance fee does apply to enter the monument. Programs are offered daily.

\*6:15 pm August 29—September 11

\*5:45 pm September 19—October 2

\*6:00 pm September 12—September 18

### Crafty Kids Program

Get your hands involved in learning! Join rangers in the visitor center courtyard for a one-hour craft and interpretive program. Rangers will share surprising facts about the creepy crawlers, amazing adapters, and out-of-this-world geology of White Sands while guiding kids through a take-home craft project. Targeted age range is 6–10 years old. Parents are welcome to stay and participate in the program. Program is free.

\*10 am every Sunday

### 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. Tour fee: \$3.00 per adult (16 years and older), \$1.50 for children and America the Beautiful Senior and Access pass holders. Reservations can be made one month in advance at [www.nps.gov/whsa](http://www.nps.gov/whsa). All Lake Lucero tour reservations must be made through the website. These tours are only offered once a month.

\*9:00 am Sunday, September 25

### Visitor Center Hours

\*8 am–7 pm April 18—September 11

\*8 am–6 pm September 12—November 5

### Monument Hours

\*7 am–10:00 pm May 22—September 5

\*7 am–8:00 pm September 25—October 8

\*7 am–8:30 pm September 6—September 24