



Sandy Hook Visitor Programs

Fall 2009

Park Hours:

September 1 to October 31: 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.

November 1 to March 31: 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Lifeguards: There are no lifeguards on duty in the fall months. Visitors are urged to exercise caution at all times. Fall beaches contain strong rip currents and sharp drop offs beneath the surf. Because the beaches are not swept in the fall, beware of broken glass on the beach.

Due to the NJ DOT bridge construction work at the entrance to the park, visitors on warm weekend days in the fall may experience extensive delays when leaving the park after 1 P.M.

Daily ferry service though September from New York City directly to Sandy Hook: Seastreak Ferry
(1-800-BOATRIDE or www.seastreak.com)

Food and Refreshment: H.S. Concessions Sea Gull's Nest Restaurant and snack bar: Area D, Weather permitting in September open noon to sunset seven days a week. Through mid-October the Sea Gull's Nest restaurant is open on weekends noon to sunset, weather permitting.
732-872-0025 www.hsconcessions.com

Sandy Hook Lighthouse Keeper's Quarters Art Exhibit September and October Laury Egan's photography students

Laury Egan grew up in Atlantic Highlands and Rumson, NJ. As an instructor, Laury has taught composition courses and offered portfolio reviews at Brookdale Community College and the Guild of Creative Art. She has also served as a lecturer on photography and a judge for competitions. During the months of September and October, Laury and her students will be exhibiting their photography in the Lighthouse Keepers Quarters.

Sandy Hook Visitor Center

Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Features exhibits, visitor information and a bookstore. The Visitor Center is in the historic Spermaceti Cove Life-Saving Station. Pick up a brochure and speak with a ranger to learn about nature trails, ranger led programs, and other opportunities to enjoy Sandy Hook.

Call 732-872-5970

Sandy Hook Lighthouse & Keepers Quarters

September & October. Daily 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Weekends, Noon to 4:30 p.m.

November, Noon to 5 p.m. on weekends only.

Lighthouse tours throughout the afternoon. You must be 48 inches tall to climb the tower. The Keepers Quarters has exhibits on NJ Lighthouses.

The adjacent Lighthouse Keepers Barn is always open with a video on the Sandy Hook Lighthouse.

Fort Hancock Museum

September 20 & Weekends October through November, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The museum is in the former post guardhouse and has exhibits on Fort Hancock. The museum features a new art exhibit on what Sandy Hook means to children past and present. While at the museum do your own Sandy Hook themed art and add to our exhibit. Art materials provided free.

History House

Weekends September through November, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

This 1898 lieutenant's residence along "Officers Row" is furnished to the 1940s when Fort Hancock was at its busiest. Whip up a war recipe with a living history historian, or help harvest the Victory Garden.

Sandy Hook Bird Observatory

Building 20, Fort Hancock's Officers Row

Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sundays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Closed on Mondays.

The New Jersey Audubon Society field center with a bookshop and displays.

Call 732-872-2500.

Battery Potter

Weekends in September & October, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Explore Sandy Hook's oldest gun battery. View the lift gun machinery and decide for yourself whether Battery Potter was an engineering marvel or a government boondoggle.

Nike Missile Radar Site

Saturdays, September 12 & October 17, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Sundays, September 20 & October 25, noon to 4 p.m.

Parking Area L at Horseshoe Cove

The Sandy Hook Nike missile site was part of the air defenses around New York City from the 1950s through the 1970s. Tour the radar site where the supersonic Nike missiles were controlled and guided.

Visit Sandy Hook on the web at:

The National Park Service, Gateway NRA: www.nps.gov/gate

The NPS Friends Group for Sandy Hook, The Sandy Hook Foundation:
www.nps.sandyhookfoundationnj.org

September

Plumming on Sandy Hook

Sandy Hook Visitor Center
Saturday, September 5 at 10 a.m.
Collecting beach plums was an annual Lenape activity every fall. Car caravan to plumming hotspots with a ranger, and discover why these delicious fruits are unique to the shore.

Beach Plum Jam Making at History House

Saturday, September 5 at 12:30 p.m.
Join park volunteer Constance Witherby in making beach plum jam using a traditional Sandy Hook recipe. This free program is limited to twelve people. Call the Sandy Hook Visitor Center to make reservations: 732-872-5970

Junior Ranger Coast Artillery Corps Gunner

Battery Gunnison – Parking Lot G
Sunday, September 6 at 2 p.m.
Girls and boys, ages 7 to 12.
Learn and practice the duties of army soldier cannoners, including how to load and operate a 6 inch coastal gun that protected New York Harbor during WWII. Free, but reservations required. Call 732-872-5970 for more information.

Tribute in Light

Battery Peck- Parking Lot M
Friday, September 11, 7 to 10 p.m.
View the annual tribute to those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001 from the vantage of Battery Peck.

Lenape Nature Walk

Sandy Hook Visitor Center
Saturday, September 12 at 2 p.m.
Native Americans used plants, animals and other Sandy Hook resources to survive. Discover how they made use of nature's many gifts on this ranger-led walk.

Weird Sandy Hook

Saturday, September 12 at 7 p.m.
Meet at the Post Theater
There are many myths and legends about Sandy Hook, but which are fact and which are fiction? Park staff will take you on a tour to sort out which is which.

Danskin Women's Triathlon

The annual Danskin Women's Triathlon is being held once again at Sandy Hook. This swim/bike/run event will be held on Sunday, September 13, 2009. Come cheer on over 1,000 participants in the race, which supports breast cancer research.
<http://www.danskinwomenstri.com>

Henry Hudson on Sandy Hook, 400 Year Anniversary

Sandy Hook Visitor Center
Saturday, September 19 at 2 p.m.
Discover what survives of the Hook that Henry Hudson and other early explorers saw on this quadricentennial exploration and celebration.

Cold War Day

Parking Lot L at Horseshoe Cove
Sunday, September 20, noon to 4 p.m.
Visit a Nike Missile radar site restored to the time of the Cuban Missile Crisis. Visit the Nike launch site, tour the site and see Cold War era military displays.

ALS Fall Equinox Shorewalk

Meet at Guardian Park
Tuesday, September 22 at 7 p.m.
Join the American Littoral Society for this walk when there is equal daylight and darkness. We'll discuss the path of the sun and walk on the beach. Free, but call 732-291-0055 to reserve a spot.



Nike Missile Radar Site
photo circa 1969-1973

Campfire on the Beach

Sandy Hook Visitor Center
Thursday, September 24 at 6:30 p.m.
Sing along and hear some strange but true stories about Sandy Hook (sea monsters, pirates, & shipwrecks). Learn to sing the 1923 "hit," "The Sands Of Sandy Hook." Program is held on the beach at a campfire opposite the visitor center.

Birding for Beginners

Sandy Hook Visitor Center
Saturday, September 26 at 10 a.m.
Join a naturalist from the NJ Audubon Society for a two-hour bird walk. September is a great time for warblers, orioles, tanagers, and other migrant species passing through on their journey following the Atlantic flyway.

Monarch Butterfly Walk

Sandy Hook Visitor Center
Sunday, September 27 at 2 p.m.
This remarkable insect whose migration route ends in Mexico is featured on a ranger-led tour.

Harbor Lights

Twin Lights State Historic Site in Highlands, NJ
Sunday, September 27 at 2 p.m.
Discover the lighthouses, lightships and buoys that help guide ships into New York Harbor. Bring binoculars. Free, but need reservations. Call 732-872-1814 or e-mail: Twin-lights@monmouth.com.

October

Junior Ranger Missile Corps

Sandy Hook Visitor Center
Saturday, October 3 at 2 p.m.
Girls and boys ages 7 to 12.
Visit Sandy Hook's Nike missile battery, then build a model Nike rocket of your own. Learn how to fire your rocket at a target the Nike Missileman way. Reservations are required and the program is free, but \$5.00 donations for supplies would be appreciated. Call 732-872-5970.

Holly Forest Ramble

Sandy Hook Visitor Center
Saturday, October 10 at 2 p.m.
A ranger-led walk that explores Sandy Hook's maritime holly forest on the east coast.

Going Bunkers

Fort Hancock Museum
Sunday, October 11 at 2 p.m.
A 2-hour ranger-led tour of fortifications that once defended New York Harbor. Bring a flashlight. Free, but reservations required. Call 732-872-5970.

Monmouth County Audubon Society's Bird Walk

Sandy Hook Visitor Center
Saturday, October 17 at 10 a.m.
Join naturalists from the Monmouth County Audubon Society for a two-hour bird walk. Sandy Hook is a great place to witness fall migration; search for arriving waterfowl, migrating hawks and many other species of birds. Bring binoculars.

Lenape Nature Walk

Sandy Hook Visitor Center
Saturday, October 17 at 2 p.m.
Native Americans used plants, animals and other Sandy Hook resources to survive. Discover how they made use of nature's gifts on this ranger-led walk.

Clean Ocean Action's 24th Annual Fall Beach Sweep

Meet at Parking Lot E
Saturday, October 24, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Spend a morning cleaning Sandy Hook's beaches. Bring gloves and dress for the weather. Event is rain or shine. Individuals, families and organized groups of all ages are welcome. Groups of ten or more, please register in advance by visiting CleanOceanAction.org

Salt Marsh Walk

Parking Area L at Horseshoe Cove
Saturday, October 24 at 2 p.m.
Explore the many mysteries held in the wetland salt marshes along Sandy Hook Bay on this ranger-led walk.

American Littoral Society Surf Fishing Clinic

Saturday, October 24 and
Saturday, October 31 at 8 a.m.
Call for reservations.
732-291-0055 A fee is charged for this program. Join society staff for a day of surf fishing and fishing instruction on the beach at Sandy Hook. The basics of casting, knot tying, lure/bait selection, and "reading" a beach will be covered. All skill levels will be accommodated. Rods, reels, bait and tackle will be provided, but bring your own if you have it. Bring your own lunch or snack. Children under 18 years of age are welcome with a supervising adult.

New Jersey Lighthouse Challenge Weekend, 2009

Sandy Hook Lighthouse
Saturday October 17, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Sunday October 18, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
The Sandy Hook Light is one of 11 New Jersey Lighthouses along the Atlantic coast and Delaware Bay open for tours this weekend at this annual event sponsored by the NJ Lighthouse Society. For more information visit the web: <http://www.njlhs.org/challenge/challenge.html>

FORT HANCOCK DAYS

Mark the anniversary of the 1895 establishment of Fort Hancock by discovering again the fort's role in the defense of our nation.

Battery Gunnison at Night

Saturday, October 24, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Volunteer living historians from the Army Ground Forces Association will be uniformed as World War II era coast artillery soldiers and will man Battery Gunnison at night.

Fort Hancock Day

Sunday, October 25, noon to 4 p.m.
Tours through buildings not normally open to the public. Talk with living history historians who will have military items on display. Volunteers from the Army Ground Forces Association will be uniformed as World War II artillery soldiers and demonstrate how the guns of Battery Gunnison were aimed and fired.

Junior Ranger Missile Corps

Sandy Hook Visitor Center
Sunday, October 25 at 2 p.m.
Girls and boys ages 7 to 12
Visit Sandy Hook's Nike missile battery, then build a model Nike rocket of your own. Learn how to fire your rocket at a target the Nike Missileman way. Reservations are required, and the program is free but \$5.00 donations for supplies would be appreciated. Call 732-872-5970.

November

Cold War Defenses on Sandy Hook

Meet at the Nike Ajax Missile, ¼ mile north of the Ranger Station
Sunday, November 1 at 2 p.m.
Car caravan to Sandy Hook's Nike missile sites built as part of the Cold War air defenses in the 1950s.

November

(continued)

Junior Ranger Coast Artillery Corps Gunner

Sandy Hook Visitor Center
Saturday, November 7 at 2 p.m.
Girls and boys ages 7 to 12
Learn and practice the duties of army soldiers who were cannoners, including how to load and operate a 6 inch coastal gun that protected New York Harbor during WWII. Free, but reservations are required. Call 732-872-5970.



Loading the 6" gun at Battery Gunnison

Weird Sandy Hook

Saturday, November 7 at 4 p.m.
Call Sandy Hook Visitor Center for reservations. Park at beach parking lot D. A small fee will be charged for tour bus transportation.

There are many myths and legends about Sandy Hook, but which are fact and which are fiction? Park staff will take you on a tour to sort out which is which. Call 732-872-5970.

Night Prowl

Sandy Hook Visitor Center
Saturday, November 7 at 7 p.m.
Bring a flashlight for this night walk. Free. Reservations required. Call 732-872-5970.

Attention All Anglers:

Thanks to the Sandy Hook Foundation, monofilament fishing line can now be recycled in the park! Place used line in one of four bins, conveniently available at the Fisherman's Trail trailhead, the Fishing Beach access, Plum Island's central access, and the Horseshoe Cove access for recycling. The Park Service thanks you for your assistance in the effort to prevent fishing line from harming birds and marine animals.



Endangered Piping Plover next to monofilament fishing line (bottom right)

Gateway National Recreation Area
Sandy Hook Unit

General Superintendent
Gateway National Recreation Area
Barry T. Sullivan

Superintendent
Sandy Hook Unit
Dave Avrin

Chief of Interpretation
Sandy Hook Unit
Dan Meharg

Sandy Hook 24 - Hour
Emergency Number:
732-872-5900

Sandy Hook
Visitor Center
732-872-5970

Visit us on the Web:
www.nps.gov/gate

Families Investigate Science Hands-On (FISH)

NJ Marine Sciences Consortium,
Building 22, Fort Hancock
Hands-on learning is integrated into each of these two and a half hour activities. Reservations required for these fee programs. Call 732-872-1300, ext. 20, email jstaats@njmsc.org or on the web: www.njmsc.org

Happiness is a Horseshoe Crab

Saturday, September 12 at 11 a.m.

On Sandy Shores

Saturday, September 12 at 2 p.m.
Sunday, October 4 at 11 a.m.

Terrific Terrapins

Saturday, September 19 at 11 a.m.
Saturday, September 26 at 11 a.m.

Salt Marsh Investigation

Saturday, September 19 at 2 p.m.

Incredible Crustaceans

Sunday, September 20 at 11 a.m.
Saturday, September 26 at 2 p.m.

Fort Hancock Walking Tour

Wednesday, November 11 at 2 p.m.
Meet at the Parade Ground Flag Pole, opposite the Fort Hancock Museum.
A Veterans Day walking tour of Fort Hancock.

Holly Forest Ramble

Sandy Hook Visitor Center
Saturday, November 21 at 2 p.m.
A ranger-led walk through Sandy Hook's maritime holly forest.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Gateway National Recreation Area
Office of Communications and Public Affairs
210 New York Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10305

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Postage and Fees

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Visitor Programs Sandy Hook Unit Fall 2009



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA!

Sandy Hook Cooperators

The National Park Service's partners in education and research at Sandy Hook are:

American Littoral Society
732-291-0055
www.littoralsociety.org

Brookdale Community College
732-224-2435
www.brookdalecc.edu/staff/sandyhook.html

Clean Ocean Action
732-872-0111
www.cleanoceanaction.org

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, Northeast Fisheries Center, Sandy Hook Laboratory
732-872-3000
<http://sh.nefsc.noaa.gov>

James J Howard Marine Laboratory
732-872-1762

Marine Academy of Science and Technology.
732-291-0995
www.mast.mcvsd.org

New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium
732-872-1300
www.njmssc.org

Rutgers University, Institute of Marine & Coastal Sciences
<http://marine.rutgers.edu>

Sandy Hook Bird Observatory
732-872-2500
www.njaudubon.org

Sandy Hook Child Care Center
732-291-2368

Sandy Hook Foundation
732-291-7733
www.sandyhookfoundationnj.org

Sandy Hook Partners
732-708-9010
www.thefortatsandyhook.net

New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail

Sandy Hook is a site on the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail. The purpose of the Trail is to provide for public appreciation, education, understanding, and enjoyment of significant natural and cultural sites in the coastal area of New Jersey. For more information call 856-447-0103 or visit: www.nps.gov/neje