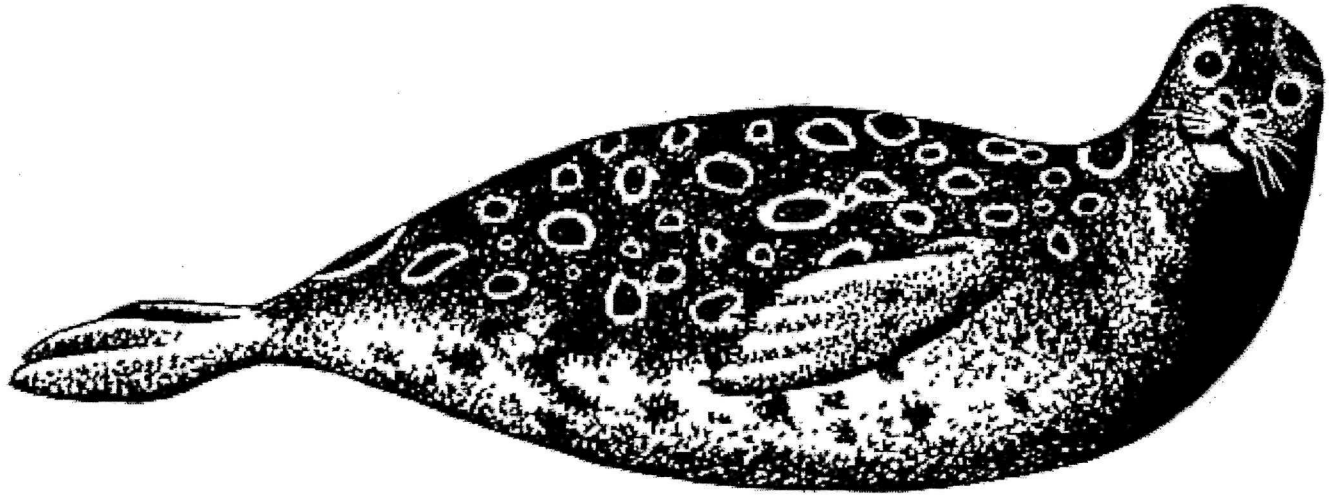
Gateway

National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior

Gateway National Recreation Area
New Jersey / New York

Visitor Programs and Events, Winter 2011 – 2012

Sandy Hook Unit



Discover Gateway During Winter Break!

Just because the weather has gotten colder, that doesn't mean that you can't enjoy your national park. Gateway's Sandy Hook Unit offers 4 seasons of discovery and fun, for the whole family! While the children are out of school, they can discover nature all around them, on seal walk, or a hike through the holly forest. Or, learn how the World War II soldiers stationed at Fort Hancock, and their families celebrated the holidays, by visiting History House, and joining in one of the many programs throughout December.

This winter, take a break…at Gateway's Sandy Hook Unit!

All park visitor centers and offices will be closed on December 25, and January 1. Park grounds will remain open during regular hours.

December

Fort Hancock Lantern Tour

Meet at the Post Theater Parking Lot
Friday, December 2
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Stroll around the Fort with a ranger to learn about soldier's lives during World War II. Dress for the weather and bring a flashlight!

SOAR Productions Presents: Manhattan Serenade

Written by Greg Brooks
The Post Theater
December 2, 9, & 10 at 8:00 p.m.
December 3 & 4 at 2:00 p.m.
Join Jack, Reggie, Doc, and the gals as they sing and dance their way through a weekend in 1946 Manhattan.
General Admission: $14.00
Purchase tickets through www.soarproductions.org and save $2.00.

Children's Christmas Crafts Workshop

History House
Saturday, December 10
1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Bring the family and learn to make paper chains and popcorn garland , reminiscent of homemade decorations from long ago.

Christmas Holly Walk

Meet at the Spermaceti Boardwalk across from the Visitor Center
Saturday, December 17
2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Enjoy the winter scenery and learn about the "holly" of Christmas with a ranger-guided walk around Sandy Hook's 64-acre maritime Holly Forest.

History House
Saturday and Sunday,
December 17 – 18
12 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Visit History House to experience a Christmas as the officers and soldiers of Fort Hancock would have experienced it in World War II. Members of the Army Ground Forces Association will be in period 1943 uniforms and will bring the Christmas of 1943 to life. Live holiday music and refreshments will be provided!

Santa Claus is Coming to Sandy Hook
History House
Sunday, December 18
2 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Meet Santa and share your Christmas wish list with him from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Also enjoy the caroling of the Manhattan Dolls vocal trio. Refreshments and goodies will be provided.

Christmas at History House
Weekends: December 3 & 4
December 10 & 11
December 17 & 18
1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
History House is a c. 1898 Army Officer's home that has been refurbished to the early 1940's, the busiest years at Fort Hancock. For the month of December, History House will be trimmed from top to bottom with vintage holiday decorations. Stop by and learn about Christmas at Fort Hancock in World War II.

January

New Year's Day Beach Walk
Building 18, Fort Hancock
Sunday, January 1
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Ring in the New Year with the annual New Year's Day walk led by the American Littoral Society. Return to House 18 for hot cider, hot chocolate, and hot dogs. Bring any holiday finger desserts that you wish to share. Free. For more information, call (732) 291 – 0055.

Animal Tracking
Sandy Hook Visitors Center
Sunday, January 15
2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Learn how to track Sandy Hook natives by observing their snowy footprints. No snow? Sand and baking flour will assist the park ranger in teaching the skill of tracking animals on and around the Hook.

Winter Seal and Waterfowl Walk
Building 18, Fort Hancock
Saturday, January 21
Meet at 10 a.m.
Bring your binoculars and join us on a trek to coastal ponds and estuaries for a look at the seals and waterfowl that over-winter at Sandy Hook. Afterwards, return to the American Littoral Society headquarters and warm up with snacks and toasty beverages. Cost is $5 per person, and reservations are required. Call to reserve: (732) 291 – 0055.

Winter Twilight Exploration
Meet at Sandy Hook Visitor Center
Sunday, January 22
4 p.m. – 5:50 p.m.
Enjoy the Hook from dusk to dark with this exploration on one of Sandy Hook's trails or beaches. Bring your own flashlight!

February

Holly Forest Walk
Meet at Sandy Hook Visitor Center
Sunday, February 5
2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Experience the unique charm of this 64- acre maritime holly forest on a ranger-led winter walk.

Birding For Beginners
Sunday, February 12
8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Meet at Parking Area B (Bayberry) by the Restrooms
If you are new to birding, this trip is for you. Learn the basics and get started with an associate naturalist from Sandy Hook Bird Observatory/New Jersey Audubon for a morning of bird watching at one of the best spots in the state. Bring warm clothing and binoculars.

Searching for Seals in the Surf
Meet at Sandy Hook Visitor Center
Saturday, February 18
2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Hike out to the Sandy Hook bayside with a park ranger to search for seal activity during their annual migration; and learn about marine mammals that dwell in the waters of Sandy Hook at different times of the year. Reservations required; please call (732) 872 – 5970.

Winter Night Prowl
Meet at Sandy Hook Visitor Center
Saturday, February 25
6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Bring a flashlight on this after-dark sensory walk through Sandy Hook's 64- acre maritime holly forest.