

December 2011



Special Programs this Month at Fire Island National Seashore

For More Information:

www.nps.gov/fiis
631-687-4750

Friday

December 2:
7 pm

Star Watch: A Night of Astronomy – Wilderness Visitor Center

(Free program; call for directions/information 631-281-3010)

Led by a guest speaker, the whole family will enjoy a captivating slide show and a viewing of the night skies by telescope. Dress for the weather!

Saturday

December 10:
9 am - 3 pm

Wilderness Discovery Hike – Meet at Wilderness Visitor Center

(Free program; call for directions/information 631-281-3010)

Join a ranger for a special guided 7-mile round-trip hike from Smith Point to Bellport Beach. Travel on the beach and through the Fire Island Wilderness. Dress for the weather, pack a lunch and water, and bring your sense of wonder!

Saturday

December 10:
11:30 am

9th Annual Reenactment of the Flying Santa - Fire Island Lighthouse

(Free 1-hour program; for more information, call 631-661-4876)

Join former Fire Island Lighthouse keeper Gottfried Mahler and his wife Marilyn, who were stationed here in 1953 when the original Flying Santa visited. Great photo opportunity when Santa arrives. Get there early!

Saturday

December 17:
11 am – 1 pm

Solstice Birding – Fire Island Lighthouse

(Free program; call for directions/information 631-687-4766)

Meet inside the Fresnel Lens Building for an illustrated program about winter birdlife on Fire Island, then head out to the beach, dunes and bay to look for resident and migratory birds. Bring binoculars

Saturday

December 17:
Noon

Children's Hour: Seaside Stories and Crafts-Starry Night – Wilderness Visitor Center

(Free program; call for directions/information 631-281-3010)

Learn about stars in winter, then create a craft to take home. Geared for kids ages 5 - 7, but all are welcome!

Wednesday

December 21:
4 pm

"Winter Solstice" Evening Tower Tour - Fire Island Lighthouse

(\$15 Fee; reservations required: call 631-661-4876)

View the night sky from the top of the lighthouse on winter solstice, the shortest day of the year. Sunset is at 4:28 pm and moonrise is at 4:59 pm

Monday

December 26:
9 am – Noon

Holiday Wilderness Hike - Wilderness Visitor Center

(Free program; call for directions/information 631-281-3010)

Join a ranger for a guided 3-mile round-trip hike from Smith Point to Old Inlet, traveling on the beach and through the Fire Island Wilderness.

Wednesday

December 28:
6 pm

Junior Ranger Workshop: Night Sky – Wilderness Visitor Center

(Free program; call for directions/information 631-281-3010)

Discover the night sky by learning to identify key features, the value of darkness, and where Fire Island and you fit into the "Big Picture." Dress for the weather. Kids ages 8-12, but all are welcome. Program limited to 30 participants.

Fire Island National Seashore Facilities open in December

Fire Island Lighthouse - 631-661-4876

Open Nov. 1 – mid-December, Daily 9:30 – 4 pm

Open mid-December – mid-March, Weekdays, 9:30 – 4 pm; Weekends, Noon – 4 pm

Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas days

Last tower tour 1 hour before closing

Wilderness Visitor Center - 631-281-3010

Open through December 31: Daily, 9 am – 4 pm

Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas days

Wilderness camping, sportsman's driving and waterfowl hunting permits when office is open

William Floyd Estate - 631-399-2030

Closed until May 2012, grounds open for special guided tours

Watch for special programs this winter and spring!

Sailors Haven and Watch Hill Facilities and The Pier at Watch Hill Restaurant

Closed until May 2012

Watch Hill Campground - 631-597-6664

Reservations for 2012 season will be accepted after January 1

Park Headquarters in Patchogue - 631-687-4750

Open all year, Monday - Friday, 9:30 – 4 pm

Closed on federal holidays

Patchogue Ferry Terminal - 631-687-4750

Closed until May 2012, but open for special programs

Watch for special programs this winter and spring!

11-14-2011