



## Community Outreach: Building Bridges with Our Local Communities



*The National Park Service manages almost 400 sites across the United States, Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. One of its key missions is to work with local communities to cultivate awareness and generate interest in the preservation and protection of local histories and natural resources worthy of national protection.*

Every year, rangers and volunteers from White Sands National Monument work with local groups from area schools, businesses, and the military to support the community, teach people about the monument and other public lands, convey a more proactive lifestyle, and raise awareness about preservation and conservation.

As part of this dedication to community involvement, you will see rangers and volunteers from White Sands National Monument at festivals, fairs, orientations, in classrooms, and at other special events. The goal of this outreach is not only so that people become aware of the recreational activities available at the monument, but also to teach that the dunefield is so much more than just a big sandbox—it is a living laboratory filled with unique plants and wildlife.

As part of a growing network of partners, White Sands is building bridges of trust and encouraging others to get outside and explore America's public lands. Along with this, White Sands is also focused on conveying the message of conservation and preservation. This encourages people to not only get out and explore their public lands, but it also encourages people to be caring and respectful to the environment and other special places.

White Sands National Monument also hosts events such as the Holiday Open House as a “thank you” to the local community and other local supporters. The Holiday Open House occurs annually, the first Friday of December. This special event truly is special, as the historic visitor center is decorated with the warm glow of hundreds of luminarias!

We would love to share our passion with you, too! If you have an upcoming community event or would like a ranger to give a special presentation to your students, contact us by calling (575) 479-6124 ext. 236 or email us at [whsa\\_interpretation@nps.gov](mailto:whsa_interpretation@nps.gov).



*Rangers Julia Treu-Fowler and Tara Cuvelier chat with visitors at a community event in Alamogordo.*