



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

White Sands National Monument

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White Sands National Monument Events September 2012

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. Programs are offered daily. Program is free; monument entrance fees apply.**

*6:15 pm August 27—September 9

*5:45 pm September 17—September 30

*6:00 pm September 10—September 16

*5:30 pm October 1—October 14

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). 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.**

*7:30 pm Friday, August 31

*6:30 pm Saturday, September 29

Full Moon Night

Randy Granger

Native American flutist Randy Granger will fill the moonlit night with his unique blend of instruments, interpretation of traditional melodies, and heartfelt music. Join this native New Mexican for a relaxing summer evening. Program is free; monument entrance fees apply.**

*7:30 pm Saturday, September 1

Nice Hat: History of the National Park Service Uniform

Have you ever wondered where the “ranger hat” came from and why park rangers wear such hats? Join us on this late-summer evening for a fashionable walk through the history of the National Park Service and the uniforms that have identified park rangers since the early days of national parks. Program is free; monument entrance fees apply.**

*7:00 pm Sunday, September 30

Full Moon Bike Ride

Enjoy a leisurely bike ride under the light of the full moon. Reservations are required and can only be made via our website (www.nps.gov/whsa). Reservations will be accepted starting on August 28. Special fees apply. \$5.00 per person 16 and older. \$2.50 per person 15 and younger.

*8:00 pm Friday, September 28

White Sands Balloon Invitational

Enjoy the sight of colorful hot air balloons launching from the snow-white gypsum dunes. The event begins right at sunrise and lasts until the balloons come down, usually 3 hours later. 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 15 and Sunday, September 16

Lake Lucero Tour

Have you ever wondered how the white sands formed? Take a tour to Lake Lucero with a ranger and learn how the dunes are formed from gypsum-laden water and selenite crystals. Tour fee: \$3.00 per adult (16 years and older), \$1.50 for children and America the Beautiful Senior and Access pass holders. Reservations are required and can only be made via our website (www.nps.gov/whsa) starting one month in advance of tour.

*9 am Sunday, September 23

Crafty Kids

In the visitor center courtyard, rangers will share surprising facts about the creepy crawlers, amazing adapters, and out-of-this-world geology of White Sands while guiding you 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.

*10:00 am every Sunday

Skins and Skulls

Join a ranger in the visitor center courtyard for a 20-minute talk about the amazing animals of White Sands. Rangers will have pelts, skulls, and other props to provide you an up-close look and feel of the elusive wildlife of White Sands. Program is free.

*3:00 pm Saturday and Sunday

Map Talks

Join a ranger in the visitor center courtyard to have your questions answered and pick up tips for enjoying your stay at White Sands National Monument. Program is free.

*1:30 pm Saturday and Sunday

Visitor Center Hours *8:00 am–7:00 pm April 18—September 9 *8:00 am–6:00 pm September 10—November 3

Schedule is subject to change. Activities may be cancelled due to weather or missile range activities. Visit www.nps.gov/whsa for more information. **Monument entrance fees are \$3.00 per person anyone 16-years and older; children 15-years old and under are free.